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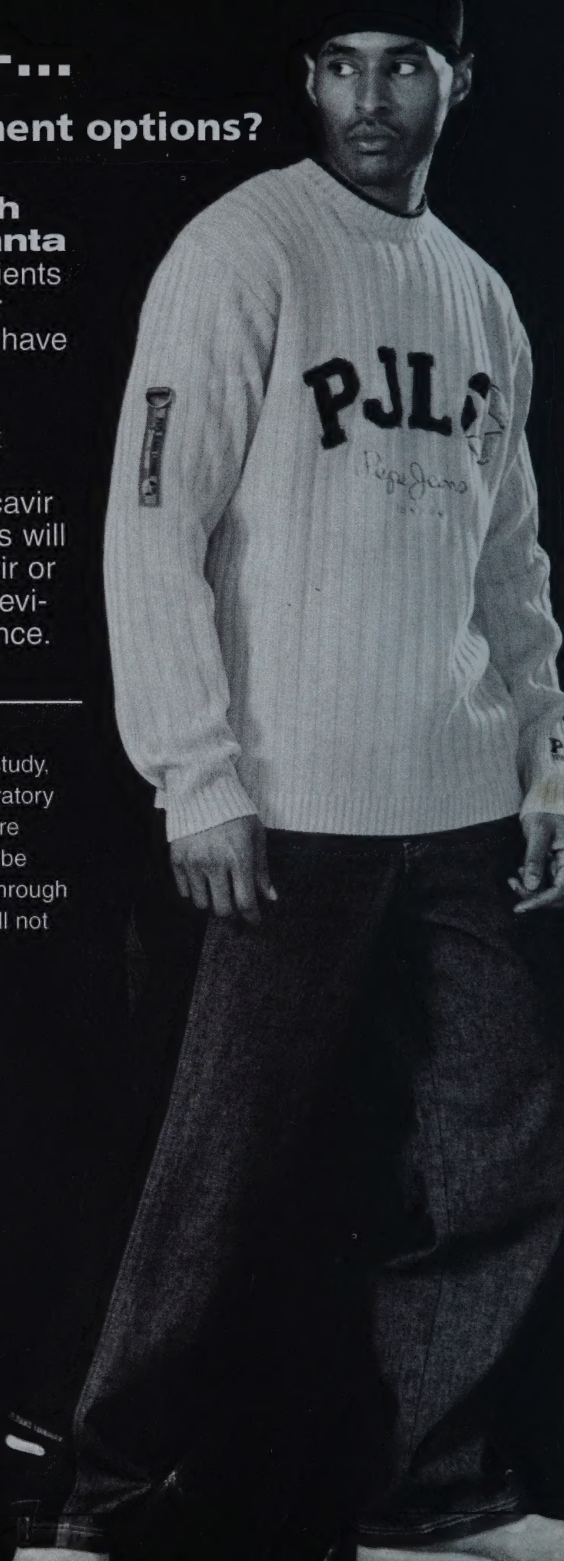
The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) is recruiting patients for a clinical drug study for people who are HIV+ and have failed early treatment.

40006- This study looks at combination therapy with amprenavir, ritonavir, abacavir and another NRTI. Patients will also receive either tenofovir or efavirenz depending on previous anti-HIV drug experience.

If you qualify for and enroll in this study, you will be closely monitored; laboratory tests, study visits and study drug are provided at no cost. One NRTI will be prescribed and must be obtained through normal prescription methods - it will not be paid for by the study.



For More Information Call
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www.aidsresearchatlanta.org





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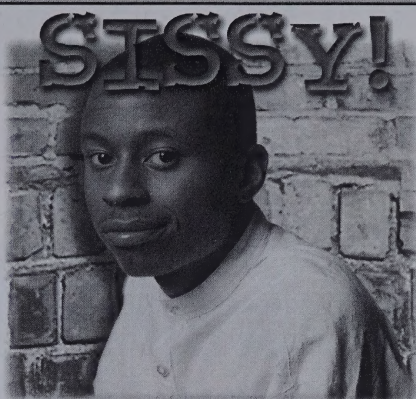
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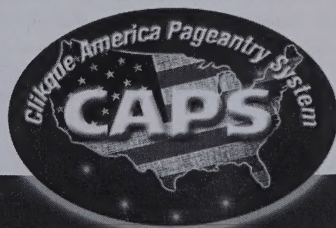
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MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND – ATLANTA

Miss Clikque America 2001



See Page 61 For More Details

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Powerful Therapy That Fits the Way You Live

LOWER VIRUS LEVELS—LONGER

SUSTIVA is effective long-term in combination treatment of HIV-1 infection. In clinical studies, combination therapies containing SUSTIVA were proven superior to an indinavir or a nelfinavir containing regimen in lowering the virus to levels that were undetectable.¹ In one study, SUSTIVA in combination with two NRTIs kept it at those levels for more than two years.²

TAKE IT JUST ONCE A DAY

SUSTIVA fits the way you live because you take it just once a day. Bedtime dosing is recommended during the first few weeks to improve tolerability of nervous system symptoms. It can be taken with or without meals, however high-fat meals should be avoided. There's no need to drink lots of liquid.

GENERALLY TOLERABLE SIDE EFFECTS

SUSTIVA is generally well tolerated, with no long-term toxicities observed.

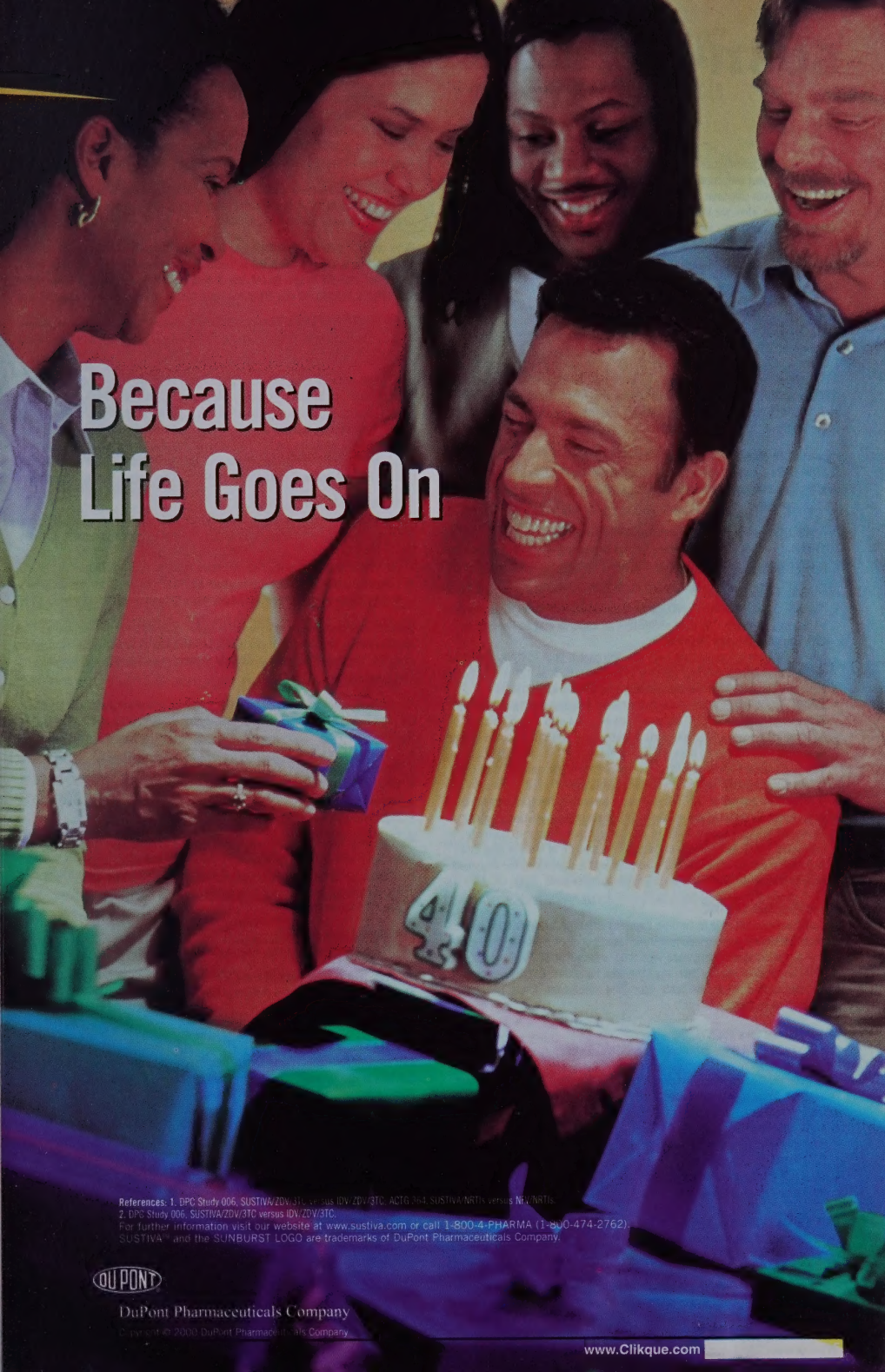
SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Mild to moderate rash is a common side effect of SUSTIVA. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in animals given SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA should not be taken by patients who are also taking any of the following: Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot derivatives as there is the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects.* See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.

*The brands listed are registered trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company.



Once Daily
SUSTIVATM
efavirenz

A man in a red sweater is smiling broadly, surrounded by four friends (three women and one man) who are also smiling. In front of him is a white birthday cake with the number '40' on it and several lit candles. To his left, a woman is holding a small blue gift box. In the foreground, there are several other wrapped gifts in blue and green paper.

Because Life Goes On

References: 1. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC, ACTG 394, SUSTIVA/NRTI versus NRTI.
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC.
For further information visit our website at www.sustiva.com or call 1-800-4-PHARMA (1-800-474-2762).
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www.Clikque.com

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk, or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had Hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

* SUSTIVA™ is a trademark of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company.

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6495-03/Rev February 2000

Minorities outnumber whites in new AIDS cases



ATLANTA, Georgia (AP) — Blacks and Hispanics accounted for nearly 70 percent of new HIV infections from July 1999 to June of this year, a striking change in what was once known as a disease of gay white men, the U.S. surgeon general said Tuesday.

Part of the problem is that the groups hardest to reach in prevention campaigns — high school dropouts, former inmates and the homeless — are disproportionately black and Hispanic, Dr. Davidatcher said.

Of an estimated 40,000 new infections over the 1999-2000 period, blacks accounted for more than 50 percent and Hispanics accounted for 19 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"When the AIDS epidemic started in this country in 1981, it was viewed as an epidemic of white gay men, and that was partially true. It is not true anymore," Satcher said after the report was issued at the U.S. Conference on AIDS in Atlanta.

The CDC report did not say what proportion of the new infections involved gay men.

Improved access to health care and a renewed push to educate minority groups could slow the rate of new infections, Satcher said.

The CDC suggested fewer gay minorities seek AIDS testing and treatment because homosexuality carries a greater stigma among minorities than among whites.

"There's something we don't talk about a lot, and it's the young gay man of color," Satcher said. "They tend to see themselves on the fringes of society."

Even heterosexual Hispanics are less likely than their white counterparts to be tested, said Sara Riney, a spokeswoman for AID Atlanta.

"Of course there's the language barrier, but there's also a cultural barrier. You just don't talk about it," she said. "Also we have a lot of people who might be afraid to get tested because they don't understand the confidentiality and they're not legal citizens."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Man, I really don't know where to begin. I've only seen 2 editions of your wonderful creation you call CLIKQUE! Both of which, where very informative and insightful. Opening doors for new life in the "community" and educating ALL on the important issues that we all face on a day to day basis. I am a 27 year old (not looking over 22, thank you!!) African American male. I reside in Dallas, but do extensive traveling with my job. So some of the information from the magazine has been helpful in getting the inside scoop on "what's happening...!?!". In this current issue, the feature article on Thondo Kafele was most impressive and shed new light on 'ancient' traditional concepts concerning 'black folks' with natural hairstyles.

*J'Khouri Mitchell,
Dallas TX*

First, may I commend you for "Clikque" magazine. I thoroughly enjoy every month of "Clikque". It's informative with great articles, the happenings throughout the year and outstanding pictures and graphics. So, My question is why "Banjee Magazine"? I know you'll premiere in December. How will "Banjee" differ from "Clikque"? Are you giving "Black Inches" a run for its money? Please describe the format. I subscribed for six months and will extend my subscription after that period upon my review. If the quality of work that's put forth in "Clikque" I know it will be successful. Thanks for your valuable time. Good luck with "Banjee" and continued success with Clikque"

Truly, Fred

Dwight, First let me say job well done on your magazine. I find it to be very informative regarding gay black issues. Also your models are very hot!!!! I was recently in ATL for pride week and had a great time. I'm also from Detroit, However now I reside in Cincinnati. I also attended Black Pride in Detroit. I'm somewhat disturbed that the Black Brothers

here in Cincinnati are only focused on one thing. There's no unity! However your magazine keeps me focused and provides hope for those that want to achieve. I'm a professional black gay male that has a lot to offer to the right person. My friends come to my home and see that I have subscribed to your magazine and they all enjoy it. Just a short note to let you know that you got it going on.

*Dray.
Cincinnati, OH*

In May of 1999, I accidentally ran across one of your publications at Club Cabaret in Indianapolis, Indiana. This was a time in my life where I was doing a lot of searching spiri-

tually, financially, and romantically. Your magazine touched me in a way that I can't explain. I am usually

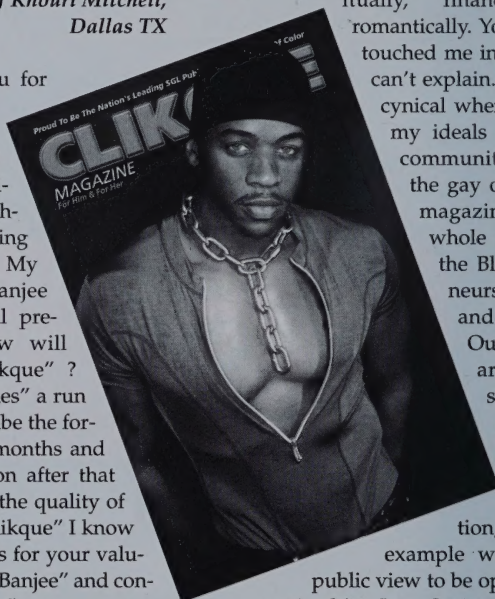
cynical when it comes to my ideals of the Black community especially the gay one, but your magazine sheds a whole new light on the Black entrepreneurs, Black gays, and tansexuals.

Our reputations are being slaughtered, not only by negative religious interpretation, but by the

example we set in the public view to be opinionated on

an critized (i.e. Jerry Springer). Clikque is very professional and unexpectedly spiritual. It's an in-your-face example of the indefinite possibilities that we as Black gay people can achieve if we come together. Your magazine continuously educates and provides our vulnerable people literature about the deadly AIDS virus.

*Diamond Shamyse Styles
Carthage, MS*



As an individual who has only recently come into the knowledge of Klikque Magazine, I thought I would write to express my sincere gratitude. To Mr. Powell, it is an incredible undertaking that you have endeavored to do, and you are definitely doing it well. To see a young (and attractive) brotha with such an infinite amount of creativity and entrepreneurial drive is a testament to the potential of all African American males. As a brotha with some of the same characteristics, I am encouraged by the example that you are setting. As an amateur writer (predominantly poetry), I must also commend Queshan Hayes on an immense level of creative skill and ability to tantalize his audience.

Look forward to seeing my subscription come through your office. And know that there is a 23-year-old Southern gentleman firmly in Klikque's corner.

*Atherion Qua
Baton Rouge, LA*

..... I know you get a lot of e-mail but I just want to let you know that you and your staff have done an excellent job. The Klikque Magazine has been the best thing sent peanutbutter & jelly!!!!. To me

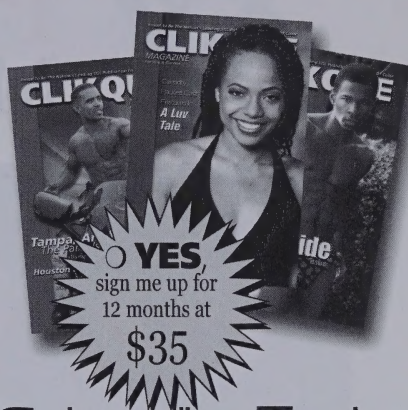
*JO-JO
Jacksonville FL*

I just wanted to take a moment to commend you on the fine job done with your magazine. The Sep/Oct edition is the first copy of the magazine that I have had the opportunity to read. As far as magazines go, I usually don't even pick up a copy of the ones that can be found in the bars/nightclubs. My experience has been one that they have proven to be not worth the paper that they're printed on. However, something led me to pick up your magazine and I am very happy I did. The articles are very well written and informative. The magazine just has an overall "professional" appearance.

Thanks for all the effort put forth to make this such a successful magazine. Much continued success!

Jhoella

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Celebrating The Life Of A King Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Monday, January 15th

The **Dream**

Aug. 28, 1963

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon of hope to millions of slaves, who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the colored America is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the colored American is still sadly crippled by the manacle of segregation and the chains of discrimination.

One hundred years later, the colored American lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the colored American is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we have come to our Nation's Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our great republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed to the inalienable rights of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given its colored people a bad check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is not time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

- Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.
- Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.
- Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick-sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.
- Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of its colored citizens. This sweltering summer of the colored people's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.

Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning. Those who hope that the colored Americans needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the colored citizen is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

- We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.
- We cannot be satisfied as long as the colored person's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one.
- We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for white only."
- We cannot be satisfied as long as a colored person in Mississippi cannot vote and a colored person in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of your trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecutions and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go

back to the slums and ghettos of our modern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you, my friends, we have the difficulties of today and tomorrow.

- I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.
- I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.
- I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.
- I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.
- I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.
- I have a dream today.
- I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; that one day right down in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.
- I have a dream today.
- I have a dream that one day every valley shall be engulfed, every hill shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains and the crooked places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with.

- With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.
- With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.
- With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

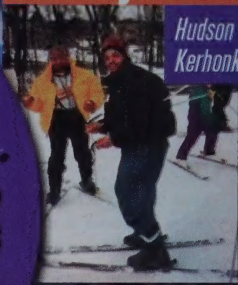
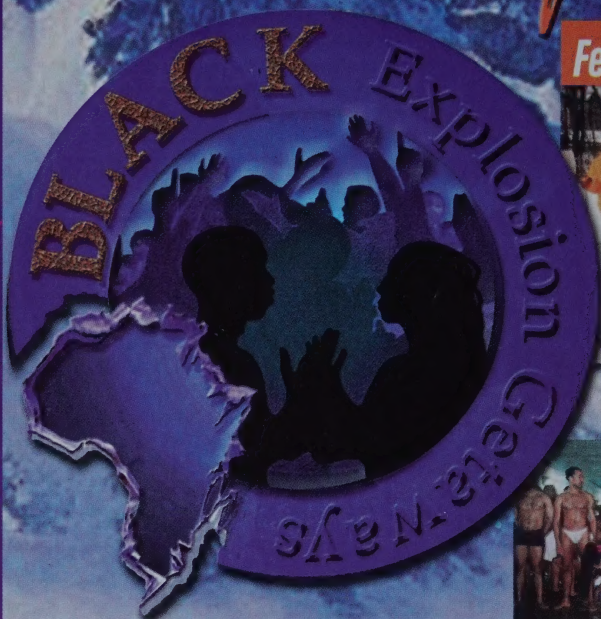
- Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.
- Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that, let freedom, ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.
- Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi and every mountainside.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. ThankGod Almighty, we are free at last."

ABSOLUT *Winter Explosion*

February 16th - 19th, 2001

Hudson Valley Resort & Spa
Kerhonkson, NY



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*Prices are per person based on normal registration.

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WALKIN THE WALK

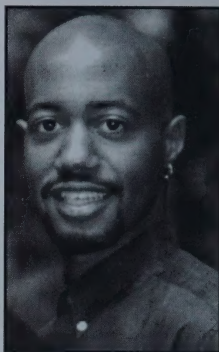
written by senior staff writer
CRAIG WASHINGTON
 atlanta, ga.

On October 15th, thousands of Atlantans converged upon Piedmont Park for the 10th annual AIDS Walk to generate funds to support local AIDS service organizations. I walked this Sunday as I have been for 8 years running. I was a recent Yankee transplant (from New York) in 1992 the first time I "walked" in Atlanta. I know that several speakers took the stage that morning, yet in my faded recollection, only one image remains clear and distinct. It is that of a petite woman whose pretty, high-cheek-boned face is framed with short braids. As she shared her life story, the din of the crowd faded. She talked about growing up in Harlem, using while she was a college student, the day she found out she had "it," her husband who also had "it" and died shortly after that day, and her outlook on life and death. Bearing witness to the miracle of Debbie Thomas-Bryant was a pivotal moment for me. I was then inspired to come out of the HIV closet, not only to encourage others but also to face my disease with greater courage, wisdom and serenity. Like Debbie did. Until her death last year from "complications due to AIDS."

Debbie's contributions are immeasurable. Whether as the spokesperson for the Georgia Women Preventing AIDS campaign, or as an educator/activist, or as the sweet sister you could talk to about most anything. Throughout the last decade, her work assisted or influenced almost every AIDS service organization in Atlanta. Her capacity for human connection exemplified the original walk theme "all walks of life". She worked with drug users, churchgoers, lesbians, teenagers, gays, transgendered folks of all races with simple honesty and compassion, without judgement or condescension. She prioritized her work within the black community and never compromised about it. We owe her more than we could ever repay.

Much has come to pass and some things haven't changed in the 8 years since I first encountered Debbie. The epidemic has continued to spread among black and latino people more so than any other race group. While

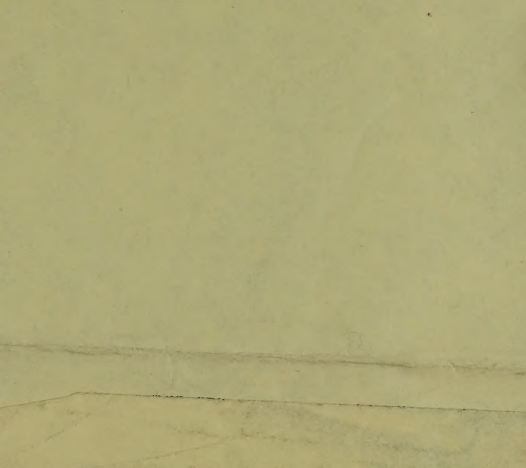
the advent of the drug cocktail has helped more infected people stay healthy, many others (due to health factors, poverty, or homelessness) cannot tolerate or even access these drugs. Several major black civil rights organizations remain reticent to address this crisis with any major initiatives or programs. The U.S. media has only recently increased focus on how AIDS continues to ravage several African nations. A few Atlantan black AIDS workers have connected with their African counterparts for info-sharing, skills transfer and various types of partnerships.



With each successive Walk, I see more and more brown faces showing up, many of whom walk in registered teams. A broad cross range of black civic society, including colleges and universities, sororities, churches, youth groups, and gay and lesbian organizers are represented in an all-too rare display of oft-touted unity in the community. The Walk and the Martin Luther King March are the only local mass events that bring such a large mix of gay, lesbian, transgendered and straight people of all races together to address a common cause. I use the added identifier "openly" because the majority of black LGBT participants do not walk as a part of a gay-identified team and those that do intentionally distinguish themselves as members of black civic life who are no less members because of their "distinction" as not heterosexual, as "other", as gay.

As an openly gay writer/organizer who cherishes his kinship with extended black family, I am uplifted at the sight of black folks from "all walks of life" joining in this mass action. Since its onset nearly 20 years ago, AIDS has forced the subject of homosexuality (and increasingly, transgendered identity) out into Black popular discourse. In several major cities, openly gay black culture has grown tremendously yielding dance clubs, vogue "houses", support organizations, social groups, book clubs, independent publishers, egroups, and chat rooms as well as specifically targeted social services (mostly HIV prevention programs for Black men). Atlanta is one of the few Southern cities where examples of most of the aforementioned can be found. Thus there is a rather visible black gay "community" whose very visibility or "outness" increasingly challenges the traditional responses and attitudes of the black community-at-large.

Several dynamics of black identity and culture, including the construct of black masculinity, clearly indicate that homosexuality is, if no longer taboo than certainly still a



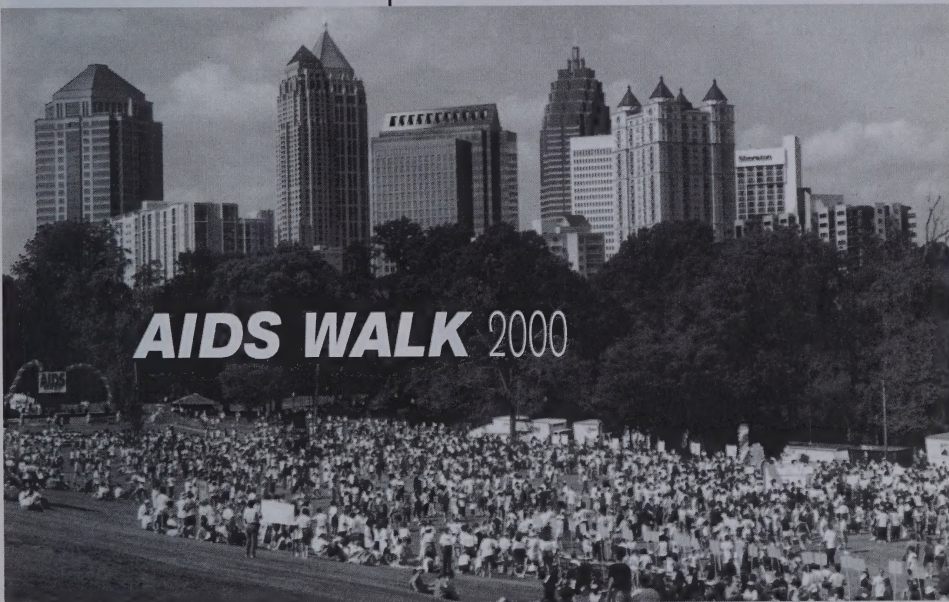
problematic issue for black people to address. A friend once suggested that while homosexuality (identity and behavior) in the context of black culture may not be countercultural, open self-identification (or being "out") and talking about it without condemnation, certainly is. I don't believe that black people are uniformly homophobic. I do know that homophobia continues to infect black community and is too often left unchallenged. In a candid letter, AJC editor Cynthia Tucker upbraided black people for their homophobia which she cited as a primary hindrance to AIDS activism and prevention.

In the early years of AIDS activism, hundreds of black health care workers, educators and activists aligned across differences of sexual orientation. Many of the straight AIDS workers were led to address their homophobia and became more accepting of openly gay and transgendered people. But the public awareness campaigns were often fashioned to

women were infecting themselves and solely responsible for reducing HIV infection in the community. The move to "de-gay" AIDS in order to make awareness messages more relevant to heterosexuals and more socially acceptable, helped fabricate a collective face of AIDS, much like a photo essay where "all the blacks are straight and all the gays are white." While Black gay and bisexual men were by then one of the largest infected population groups according to CDC data, they were omitted from this "group shot." Moreover the opportunity to begin to address homosexuality in ways that could foster greater understanding throughout black communities was thereby lost.

While AIDS or rather the mobilization against it has not yielded a groundswell of anti-homophobia work from black civic leaders and social justice organizers, it has certainly expanded collective thought and discourse about homosexuality. There have been public forums in Oakland and Washington D.C. where black straight and gay folks have explored these issues. We can create and support educational programs, films and literature about black society and culture that address lgbt experience not as an aberration but as segments of a diverse racial group. Black people who hold prejudiced attitudes or exercise oppressive behavior towards lgbt people often do not see the parallels between homophobia and

AIDS WALK 2000



downplay the irrefutable link between homosexuality and AIDS and highlight the epidemic's effect on women and children. Regarding black folk, many safer sex educators, service providers and drug companies (those who participated in the development of awareness and prevention messages) perhaps followed the oft-stated assumption that overt images of gay men would not be acceptable in black neighborhoods. Men regardless of sexual orientation were conspicuously absent from the photo ads as if to imply that

racism. Those of us who are people of color, lgbt, women, poor experience oppression in a culture that devalues and stigmatizes those identities. Some may respond to their disempowerment and marginalization by accessing power through lashing out at other oppressed groups and/or emulating our oppressors. In accessing that power we may withhold our support of or even oppress those who are marginalized because of some other identity. Thus a black heterosexual woman who experiences racism and sexism (because she is black and a woman) may oppose civil rights protection for

Continues on Page 67

BROOKE SHIELDS, CHERRY JONES AND ANNE MEARA STAR IN

"WHAT MAKES A FAMILY,"A CONTROVERSIAL, MOVING AND HEARTFELT ORIGINAL MOVIE
BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF A LANDMARK CUSTODY CASE

Barbra Streisand, Cis Corman, Whoopi Goldberg, Craig Zadan And Neil Meron
Serve As Executive Producers; Whoopi Goldberg Also Co-stars In The Film

Golden Globe-nominee Brooke Shields ("Suddenly Susan," "Black and White"), Tony Award-winner Cherry Jones ("The Heiress," "Erin Brockovich") and Emmy and Tony Award -nominee Anne Meara ("Archie Bunker's Place," "Anna Christie") star in the LIFETIME Original Movie "What Makes a Family," a profoundly moving and heartfelt drama based on the true story of a gay woman's passionate fight to regain custody of her child from her deceased partner's parents. Academy Award-winner Whoopi Goldberg ("Ghost," "Girl Interrupted") also stars in a supporting role as a powerful civil rights attorney. The two-hour movie, based on a landmark 1980's Florida appeals court case, premieres Monday, January 22 at 9 PM (ET/PT) on LIFETIME Television.

"Gay and lesbian adoption certainly is a controversial issue for our times," Executive Producer Barbra Streisand said. "The movie deals, in a very honest way, with what

really makes a family and how the courts sometimes attempt to tell us whom we may and may not love."

"What appealed to us about telling this story is the redefinition of family," Executive Producer Craig Zadan explained. "Is family tied by blood only? Or is a family whatever you make it? We try to examine both sides, grandparents' rights versus parents' rights, the rights of custody versus guardianship."

"Our story reflects the many ways the word 'family' is defined in today's society," Executive Producer Whoopi Goldberg said. "This movie is about basic human and civil rights which concern everyone, because you never know when they are going to come after you next."

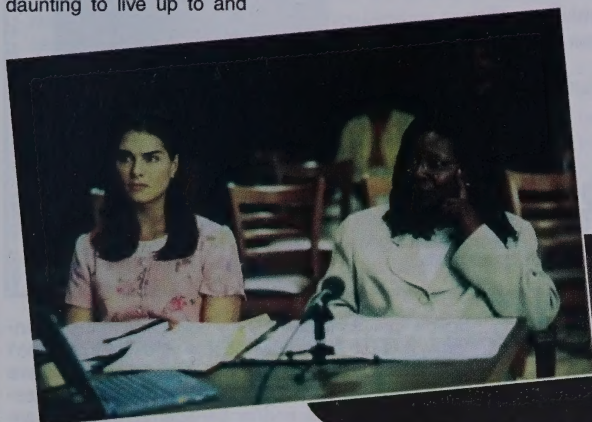
Janine Nielssen (Shields) first comes to terms with her own sexuality when she meets Sandy Cataldi (Jones), an out-of-the-closet lesbian. They fall in love and exchange marriage vows, although the state of Florida does not legally recognize their union. Sandy becomes pregnant by artificial insemination and gives birth to a daughter, Heather. The couple raise the baby together and lead a happy family life until Sandy is diagnosed with lupus and dies when Heather is only five years old. A heartbroken Janine is even more devastated when she discovers that Sandy's parents, Evelyn (Meara) and Frank (Al Waxman), to whom she was very close, have successfully gained legal custody of Heather under a state law that gives blood relatives prior claim. Grief-stricken without Sandy, and now separated from her daughter, Janine goes into an emotional collapse. Following her release from a psychiatric hospital, she picks up the pieces of her life with one resolve in mind. Enlisting a leading attorney, Terry Harrison (Goldberg), to fight her case, Janine appeals to the courts one more time to get her daughter back.

"I don't look at this as a gay story," Brooke Shields declared. "It's a story about a family and about fighting for your rights and standing up for the people you love," she continued. "I have always believed that a happy home depends on the love and support that the caregiver in the household is

providing to a child. And the research, which comes up in the trial in the film, shows that where children have been raised in a home that is not based on blood, they have turned out surprisingly happy because they've grown up in a family that's based on honesty, love and communication." Shields added, "For me, personally, I thought the script for this film was one of the most beautiful love stories I have ever read. And I'm proud as a woman to support this issue."

"I'm sure if you talked to a lot of heterosexuals embroiled in custody battles right now they would have plenty of sympathy for this story," Cherry Jones said. "I wanted to do this film because it gives people hope. I don't think it's just a gay story, but I do think it's important to realize that gays in our society at this point have very few rights when it comes to the families they make. And that has to change."

"The real responsibility I felt during the filming was to the memory of Sandy," Jones reflected. "When you play someone who lived and loved and died with so much courage, it's almost daunting to live up to and



launches Brooke Shields as a major dramatic actress. And I'm very proud that we could finally show a real, loving lesbian couple with genuine physicality and truthful emotions, without having to compromise."

Network television would not do a movie like this because it's too controversial," stressed Zadan. "We're thankful for LIFETIME, which is a wonderful home for the project because they welcomed the opportunity to tell a dramatic story that also offers audiences the chance to think for themselves about what's fair and what's right. I hope that, after watching this movie, people will widen their view of what families are and of what parenting is all about. The more they see about this issue, the more justice there will be."

"What Makes a Family" is produced by Barwood Films, Storyline Entertainment and Whoop, Inc. and distributed by Columbia TriStar Television. Tom Leonardis, Robert Freedman and Dave Mace are the co-producers.

In desperation, Janine (Brooke Shields) hires an attorney (Whoopi Goldberg) to appeal the court decision, as she must fight for the only thing that makes life worth living.

honor that spirit. Her illness was so hard and she was such a fighter and had such humor—she was fully alive, which is probably why she wanted to be a mother, because she had so much to give."

"What is important is to acknowledge the existence of a loving family that is inherently compatible," Executive Producer Cis Corman emphasized. "Today, there is such diversity in family structures—single mothers and fathers, both gay and straight, and same sex parenting. No court has the right to deny custody based on sexual orientation. I hope this film will serve as an inspiration."

Executive Producer Neil Meron, who first discovered the real-life story about the Florida custody case, believes the universal theme of the movie will appeal to all audiences. "Janine represents the classic case of an ordinary woman thrust into extraordinary circumstances," Meron observed. "She had to overcome her own paralysis and test her mettle in profound ways. The movie shows how she came to realize that love itself—her love for her daughter—was the most powerful weapon she could have. What I hope viewers get from watching the movie is an understanding of the possibility that love can and does win out in the end."

Meron is also proud of the movie on several other fronts. "It presents a timely political issue through telling a very moving human story," he continued. "I'm proud of the enormous contributions of all the cast, and particularly we believe the movie

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Continued from Page 27

gays and lesbians and access her power as a heterosexual. I believe homophobia can be further challenged as more people understand the interlocking nature of oppression.

But it will take more than education to achieve such shifts in black collective consciousness. People learn about each other from working on common goals, being in the trenches together. Intentional coalitions between openly lgbt and straight black people, organizing to address not only AIDS, but racial profiling, affirmative action, violence against women, homelessness, public education, as well as anti-gay oppression such as legal discrimination, religious condemnation, physical and verbal abuse and murder. Those of us who are openly lgbt activists often direct our energies specifically on lgbt community-building and/or may collaborate more often with white gay organizers than black straight organizers. By placing ourselves on the front lines of non-lgbt specific liberation struggles we can model the level of coalition-building that builds relationships and gradually yields consciousness growth in our own communities.

Renowned Atlantan leaders such as Coretta Scott King, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, Rep. John Lewis, Senator Vincent Fort, Mayor Bill Campbell, Rev. Barbara King and Rev. Tim McDonald have spoken out against homophobia in various ways. It is my hope that other leaders in the black community will

follow their example. It is my belief that in the meantime, it is the "everyday" people whose quotes don't make headlines who will help us as a people achieve a higher level of acceptance of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgendered. There are everyday people, many of whom are straight, who have lesbian daughters or transgendered friends whom they accept without judging. I urge you to encourage your straight friends, relative and allies to confront others in the workplace, at the dinner table or the ball court, when those others display homophobic words and/or actions. Just as white people have a responsibility to confront racism, so must straight people call out homophobia, to send the message that this is not acceptable. We as a people cannot effectively mobilize to fight the AIDS epidemic or any of the other crises threatening our survival if the majority either practices or tolerates prejudice against those of us who are not hetero or traditionally gendered. Debbie understood that because she saw herself and those she met who may have been different from her, still as everyday people, as "people" everyday of her life. As I reflect upon the masses of walkers, volunteers, guest speakers and assorted pets, I close my eyes and I still see Debbie. I remember the range of her love and acceptance. I remind myself of the infinite power of faith and possibilities.

Craig Washington is a writer/activist who serves as a board member of YouthPride and a member of the Mayors' LGBT Senior Advisors Committee.

LEARN TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF

From *Don't Sweat The Small Stuff in Love* by Richard & Kristin Carlson

Publisher's Message For The Month

Almost nothing immunizes you from day-to-day frustration more than — a healthy sense of humor—particularly the ability to laugh at yourself. Every long-term relationship gets to a point where your partner knows you almost as well as you know yourself. He will see your quirks, anticipate your unhealthy responses, and know the ways that you sometimes get in your own way. Even if you tried, it would be difficult to hide your true self from your partner.

If you are unable to laugh at yourself, you're in for a long, bumpy ride. You will struggle in your relationships because, as your partner teases you, notices your flaws, and occasionally points them out, you will feel and probably act a bit defensive. This, in turn, will exacerbate and highlight your weaknesses, making them seem far more significant. What's more, your reactions to your partner's comments will create additional issues for the two of you to deal with, and your "small stuff" will start to seem like big stuff.

If you look around at the happiest and most loving relationships, you'll almost always notice that both people have an ability to laugh at them' selves. Both partners will have the perspective necessary to stay lighthearted as their own imperfections come to the surface. This creates an environment where occasional teasing or kidding around is okay, and where one feels safe in making observations or suggestions. Your relationship has the chance to deepen and grow because both parties feel safe.

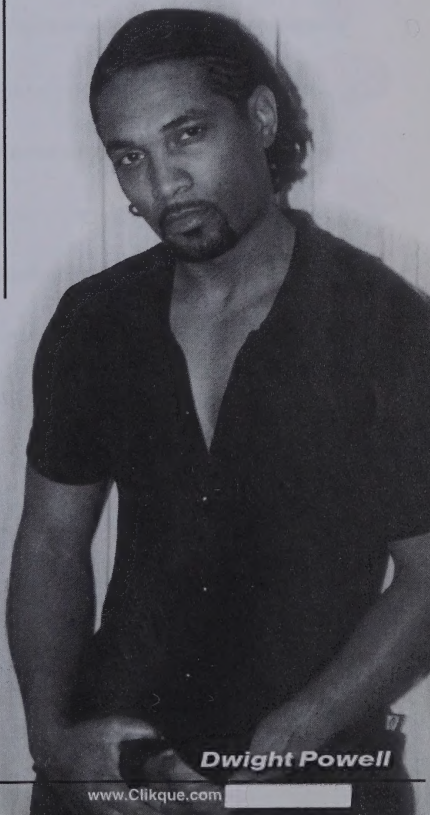
It's quite remarkable to observe what happens to a potentially heated interaction when someone is able to keep their sense of humor. In most cases, the situation is diffused and simply melts away. For example, we were sharing time with another couple when the woman made a slightly snide comment to her husband. Specifically, she said, "You talk too much." His response speaks to the point of this strategy. He laughed to himself and said, very gently, "You're right, I sure can dominate a conversation." More than his words, his ability to see a grain of truth in his wife's statement, to remain humble, and to be willing to chuckle at his own tendency resolved the situation before it had a chance to gain any momentum. Often, when you keep your sense of humor and remain humble, your partner will sense when he has been too harsh and will end up apologizing for his comment. Even if this doesn't happen, it doesn't really matter because to you, it was no big deal to begin with.

Over the years, we've seen hundreds of similar conversations turn ugly because, instead of keeping a sense of humor and remaining lighthearted, the person on the receiving end of the not-so-nice comment became defensive and took himself too seriously. His inability to have a sense of humor encouraged him to lash back, argue, or start a fight.

When someone takes himself too seriously, you can sense it,

even when he keeps his reactions to himself. His mood changes, as do his mannerisms, his tone of voice, and his body language. There are no two ways about it: Without a sense of humor, you end up suffering.

Remember that, as wonderful as you are, your partner spends a great deal of time with you. If he or she makes occasional observations that are less than sugar-coated, there may be a grain of truth in what they are saying. But even if they are off base entirely, it's probably in your best interest to simply let it go—laugh it off. By laughing at yourself, not taking yourself so seriously, you will become much easier to be around. Your partner won't feel as though she has to walk around on eggshells, making sure you don't get upset. And in the end, because you will have created a more nourishing and safe environment for your partner, your relationship will be more loving and a heck of a lot more fun.



Dwight Powell

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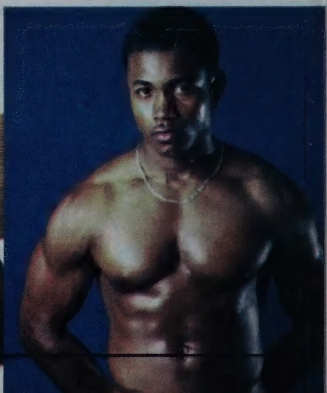
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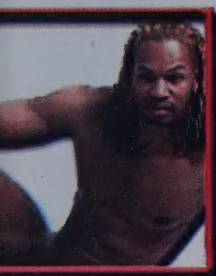
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COURTS TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON CUSTODY CASE OF TRANSGENDERED CHILD

COLUMBUS, Ohio - In a rather shocking move, officials with Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS) have removed a 6-year old child from the parents for the sole offense of being transgendered. Though there were no signs of physical, sexual or mental abuse, the FCCS decided to seek custody of the child 'for her own welfare.' Meanwhile the parents are fighting back, claiming that children should not be wrested from their parents simply because the parents allow the child to be a gender non-conformist.

The Lipscomb's son, who has self-identified as a female since the age of two and has chosen for herself the name Aurora, is at the center of this recent controversy. After being hospitalized last November at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, she was found to have gender identity disorder (GID). The parents, Paul and Sherry Lipscomb, after suffering through their own marital stresses over the situation, eventually accepted the fact it was best to allow Aurora to simply be herself.

Two weeks after Aurora was enrolled in first grade as a female, the Franklin County Children's Services, acting on calls from school employees, sought an emergency order to remove the child from the parents. Court documents showed that the school employees questioned the GID ruling. During a preliminary custody hearing, the courts apparently agreed with FCCS that it was better to break up the family rather than allow a child to grow up not conforming to social gender stereotypes.

A child this young identifying as the opposite gender is not such a rare occurrence. Most people have a very clear-cut sense of gender from an early age, said Dr. Herman Tolbert, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Ohio State University School of Medicine. As tod-

dlers, individuals identify a gender and then spend the remaining years being socialized to fit societal expectations that go along with it, Tolbert said. According to the doctor, gender identity disorder can be strictly psychological or have a mixture of psychological and physiological causes, such as ambiguous genitalia. Tolbert stressed the importance of seeking help and getting a psychiatric evaluation.

"There's no single answer that applies to everybody," he said.

The parents are justifiably fighting for their child; claiming the sanctity of their family and their civil rights have been violated. The Lipscombs say they will file a federal lawsuit against the Westerville School District, claiming sex discrimination. "No one wants this child to be who she is - a girl," stated the Lipscombs' attorney, Randi Barnabee. "It's too much of a political hot potato."

Even though FCCS has given assurances that the child is safe, and currently in the care of a temporary foster family, the parents are distraught. Her father is worried that the foster family will force his child to conform to being a boy. "It will depress her, and who knows what will happen," he said.

"We have no idea what they are doing to her," said her mother. "She's very, very fragile," the mother said.

After the preliminary decision to place Aurora in foster care, the family's attorneys Randi Barnabee and Debbie Smith immediately filed an objection, which will be heard Sept. 12. Barnabee predicted a "protracted and bitter" fight.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) is monitoring the ongoing situation, and stands ready to take whatever actions necessary to reunite the Lipscomb family. "This shows blatant disregard for core family values - keeping the family unit whole," stated NTAC Media Chair, Vanessa Edwards Foster.

"That the courts and Children's Services would find it necessary to remove a child from his or her family simply because the child isn't being forced to conform to gender stereotypes speaks volumes about the lack of understanding and education they have on gender identity disorder."

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition is the nation's pre-eminent civil rights organization for individuals who fall outside of contemporary society's traditional gender standards. NTAC strives for equal consideration and participation for all transgendered and intersexed people in every aspect of society. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ntac.org>

DISCUSSION



We Would Like To Get Your Opinion On The Articles That You Just Read

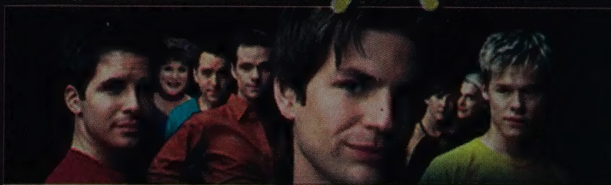
Selected Entries will be printed in a
future issue of Clikque Magazine

Ways Of Submitting Entries

- (1) e-mail: clikquem@aol.com
- (2) web: www.clikque.com
- (3) Mail: 931 Monroe Drive, Suite 102-279
Atlanta, Ga 30308

white queer as folk

A NEW SHOWTIME ORIGINAL SERIES



Story By Dwight Powell

The original Queer As Folk first aired in 1999 in Great Britain on Channel 4, the country's alternative commercial network. It featured the most explicit gay sex ever seen on British television. And now Adapted for American TV by Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman (who wrote the first AIDS TV movie, "An Early Frost," as well as the series "Sisters") with the show's British creator, Russell Davies, acting as a consultant, the show's tangled plotlines about a group of gay friends (and one lesbian couple) in Pittsburgh are somewhat addictive. The cast of mostly unknowns is pretty damn fabulous and the show has wit, wisdom and heartache to spare. And sex. Lots and lots of sex.

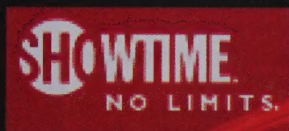
The title comes from an old Yorkshire saying: "There's nowt so queer as folk," meaning there's nothing as strange as people. For Showtime, which has half as many subscribers as HBO (and a severe case of Sopranos envy), Queer As Folk is an opportunity to create its own uproar. In the words of Showtime CEO Matt Blank, "This is real reality television." During 2000, Showtime sponsored gay-pride events in a dozen cities, passing out hand-held fans promoting the show that are tastefully emblazoned with the words Bottom, Top, Hung, Disco Whore, and Bad Boy. All year we were pumped, ready, and eagerly waiting to take in this new sitcom that reportedly represents the entire gay community..... well, not actually the entire gay community.

queer as whitefolk

Proud and loud, the show is payback for every gay character on a prime-time drama who never got any good story lines, for Will and Jack not being allowed to kiss any men except each other, for Ellen DeGeneres being mummified as TV's Lesbian Saint and for the networks asking us to believe that John Goodman is gay but Frasier Crane isn't. Most of the networks, newspapers and magazine that reviewed the sitcom, described it as the most diverse gay series on television. "Diverse", I wonder if they are talking in terms of hair texture. However, at the end of the pilot, many individuals in this black gay community were totally disappointed. Except for two guys dancing in a club there aren't any African Americans in the sitcom. Do they not have black gay "folks" in Pittsburgh?

Queer As Folk is certainly the most unapologetic treatment of gay people ever seen on American television. The series is an eye-opening experience for adventurous viewers. It's the first American series to capture (white) gay life in all its glorious complexity, without preachiness, polemics or self-censorship. "Queer as Folk" doesn't sugarcoat the many messy emotions, just as it doesn't pass judgment on Brian's recklessness or on what any of the characters do with their personal liberty, which is a very brave position for a TV series to take in homophobic America. The most impressive thing about "Queer as Folk" is that it doesn't seem to care whether it plays in Peoria. Instead of repeating the same well-meaning but vague TV-movie shibboleth that, gay or straight, we are all exactly the same, "Queer as Folk" shows us the many ways that we are not the same. And it expects heterosexual viewers to respect the difference.

Queer As Folk airs on Showtime
every Sunday @ 0PM



Though my opinion may be unpopular, I truly believe that it is the responsibility of those to whom it matters to make sure all people are represented on sitcoms. Personally, I am more concerned with minority representation in Colleges and Universities as I am with seeing them on sitcoms. Are there any Native Americans on Friends or Queer as Folk...how about Hispanics or Asians....how about foreigners or disabled peoples. Our righteous indignation (no matter how justified) shouldn't be focused on what the "establishment" has done TO us.

I think it can be construed as a non sequitur to expect the networks to represent "us" and to negate the myriad other marginalized groups.

Remember: Passion fuels the revolution. If we feel passionately, we should be proactive and not reactive to such things.

email from Alaric Blaire — Atlanta, Ga.

Brian

Justin

Debbie

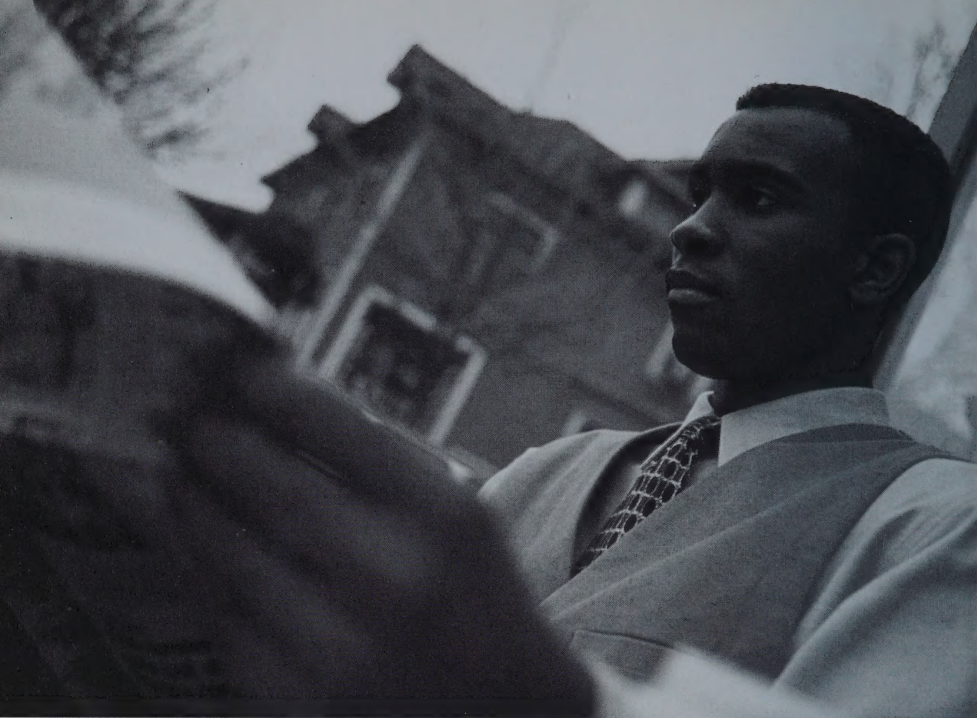
Emmett

Lindsay

David

Melanie

Michael



"Mainstream" Gays

by: Steven G. Fullwood

Atlanta, Ga.

HAVE YOU EVER LEARNED SOMETHING NEW ABOUT YOURSELF, IN A PLACE YOU NORMALLY don't patronize, from somebody who was, well, just telling the truth?

Well, it happened to me about a couple of years ago when I was living (and struggling) in Atlanta at a quaint little place called the Intermezzo Café. Two friends and I sat merrily chatting over tea and pastries.

"Hold up," I said to Jewel, coughing up the pie lodged in my windpipe. "You called us 'mainstream' gays!

Jewel just laughed at me. He had just finished describing the Marquette, a gay bar in the hood near the Atlanta University Center, which was then patronized by, well, non-"mainstream" gays and lesbians: trade, drag queens, thugs, homie-sexuals, b-boys, gansta gays, brothers on the DL, feel free to stop me at anytime.

As a point of reference, we three, African American, primarily middle-class, predominately college-educated homosexual men were solidly, shudder!, "mainstream" gays!

"I never thought of myself as a 'mainstream' anything," I said sipping my orange apricot tea. At the time I was working my way through graduate school and had just completed a junior fellowship at the Library of Congress.

"What did he call us," said Kevin, a bright young man who continues to advance in his field and just few classes away

from obtaining his master's degree.

Mainstream. What does this word really in describing we three? Am I not the radical I thought I was? I've never been a "mainstream" anything. And up until that time, I had understood and experienced gayness on the fringe dweller, as an occasional interloper and undercover dick (pun intended.) Maybe it started with educational pursuits. Yeah, yeah, that's where it must've started!

Long before I sauntered through the halls of the University of Toledo and Clark Atlanta University, I was a left-of-center poet who didn't know what the fuck he wanted to do with his life as a citizen in this white supremacist, homophobic, hostile, capitalist, self-denigrating society. Whew.

I wanted to be somebody but who and what? There were no men that I knew worth emulating. All the mainstream people I knew kinda sucked. They were all into themselves, what they wore and their drip-drop Jheri curls.

But wait. I can't lie. I can almost pinpoint the exact moment I became "mainstream". I decided to go attend college. Though I must say that I never considered (and still don't) higher education as the sole factor in journey to enlightenment. Quiet as it's kept, a college degree doesn't make you smarter, just more marketable. Those of us who've looked past the veil know this; for many others, well, it doesn't take genius to memorize and regurgitate. Integrating experiential, practical, oral and written knowledge the key. As far as academia goes, being a critical thinker and being a scholar can be, unfortunately, mutually exclusive pursuits. But I digress.

College was my way escape the encroaching poverty that had all but destroyed my childhood neighbor-

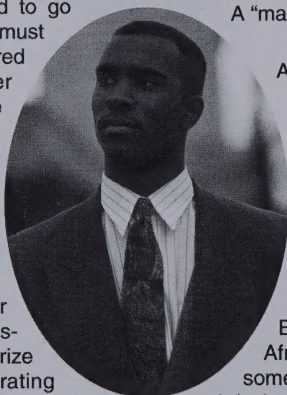
hood. I wanted to get away from all the imbeciles, transients and homophobes that had terrorized me as a kid. I knew that I wasn't cut out for welfare; too much energy, creativity and far too much stank attitude.

Back then I would've said differently. I was stricken with romantic notions of being the long-suffering artist. The "I'm-pure-because-I suffer-and-I'm-poor" disease. Recovered. Being afraid of living in a cardboard box on the streets led me to check out the schedule of classes at the local university. Fear of starving to death encouraged me to sit down and carefully fill out the admissions form. Witnessing the varied examples of failure everywhere in my neighborhood got my skinny, yellow ass out of bed and into class. Being afraid that I'll never be able to live my own life galvanized my self-awareness and pushed my creativity into overload.

That's when I became "mainstream". My aim to be all that I can be. Ensconced in fly gear.

So there I was, sitting with Kevin and Jewel, both of whom embody mainstream-ness in the best and most appealing possible way. Kevin's life story is so inspiring (did I tell you he never missed a day of school since the sixth grade?) you'd be proud to have him as your own son. He's kind, thoughtful and rarely misses Sunday service. Jewel always had something nice to say to everyone he met. When I knew him was working two jobs, and on his way to owning his first home. Oh, and did I tell you he was a fine writer?

A "mainstream" trio were we.



And is it so bad? Being "mainstream" isn't, like, the end of the world. I know what I'm not. I'm not on the "dl." I do not try to look 20 or less. I'm not living from check to check, and I can occasionally get a gig teaching at night school. I publish frequently and got a whole mess of projects that I plan to present to the world in the near future. In short, this here's my life and it's a good one.

Being a "mainstream" and relatively healthy African American gay male, I'm an anomaly—for some, that is. As a male, I'm in the dick club by default. As a lover of men, I have often experienced rejection and abuse. As a black man in America I have been subjected to racism and oppression. I have been viewed as a threat, sometimes despised, tolerated and at times, oddly enough, desired. Being thought of as a threat to the social order is both disconcerting as it is comforting. Though I want things to change, I want that change to come easily and painlessly. And that's not going to happen.

Continues on Page 63



Monifah's "Home"

Music coming from a real place

by: Darryl!

Atlanta, Ga.

Clikque got a chance to talk with Monifah as she was putting the final touches on her newest release, HOME, in Los Angeles. HOME, her third album, dropping in mid November, is a sultry blend of soul and R&B with hip-hop flava. For the last few year's Clikque has been watching the rising crop of new and talented artists. And as we promised we will continue to bring you the best in entertainment news and interviews. Monifah has impressed us with her tenacity and success. In many ways the success of Monifah, other artists, and even Clikque reflect the power and promise that this generation of artists brings to the world...

Here's our girl Monifah; born Monifah Carter in New York's Spanish Harlem she began her career as a child in her local schools and then on Off-Broadway. After spending a stint as a back up singer for Maxi Priest, reportedly Heavy D, Uptown Record's president, signed her to a record contract. In 1995 Monifah became a hit with such memorable hits as, "I Miss You" and "You." Since 1995 Monifah, has become the Princess of Soul, and has been lighting up the music scene with her own soulful blend of style and sass. Monifah first hit the scene and made fans with her debut album Moods... Moments. And since then she has continued to shake up the music industry. Her second album, Mo'Hogany, marked her first attempts at songwriting. Monifah's third release is her journey even deeper into her reservoir of talent. Monifah says that she wanted to create an album that would better reflect her personal style and the craft of vocal styling that many of the artists she admires have been known for. Monifah states, "I wanted this album to come from a real place and talk about things that are real."

HOME, Monifah adds is her attempt " ...to be heard. I want to show my growth. Vocally this album is stronger; you can hear more control. I was proud of myself on this project." Specifically Monifah confesses that she worked hard on this project because she wanted to present herself as "a premiere vocalist;" but

Continues on Page 34

admittedly getting to this point was not an easy road for her. Monifah admits that her second album was not as successful as she wanted it to be. There were several factors that led to its sluggish impact on the music industry. Monifah suggests that one of the biggest factors was that she had not taken the time to carefully craft her project. She says, "on my second album I was being an artist but it came out of no where." The result was a hodgepodge of musical selections but the whole project failed to capture the audience, "...it didn't have mass appeal," Monifah admits. This third release is bound to please audiences and critics alike. It is like listening to a soulful blend of Janet and Prince, with a whole lot of Ella and Billie mixed in for good measure. HOME is true to its creator proving that vocalists can be appealing and "real" at the same time.

Talking about realness, many of us have seen the surprise ending to her latest video "I Can Tell." If you haven't here's the TEE. In the video scenes of a beautiful Nubian man, perfectly sculpted and chiseled for the gods, is in bed with another person (wrapped up in the sheets and blankets). These scenes are inter spliced with scenes of Monifah singing in various sexy and inviting scenes, such as in a bubble bath, on a bed, candles, negligé, blowing wind...you know the drill. Anyway, the whole video lead you to believe that Monifah is speaking of being able to tell when her man is not sincere or is playing games. But catch this. Little did we expect that the game being played involved another man! The surprise ending is that in the last couple of frames of the video the other body in the bed turns over. This person, casting a wanton glare into the eyes of our Nubian man is also a man. Not just any man but a beautiful Caramel Adonis. Monifah relates that this video is the true story of many people she has encountered and admits that this has happened to her.

She felt it was time to speak up. "It has happened to me... I felt like saying 'if you had told me earlier it would have been ok.'" She goes on to say "I was not trying to make any particular statement. I did not want people to think that I had an opinion one way or the other, except that it's real and it happens." Monifah adds, "my main objective was to point it out. I just wanted to say if that's what you want, OK." From an artistic perspective she admits, "it has shock value; but it happens. It's life."

Monifah acknowledges that she has a strong gay following. When asked how she feels about this and what she wants these fans to know she says "Thank you...I don't really make any separations...it's people appreciating my music. I hope that I am able to help get them through some rough times like I've gotten myself

through." She also notes that she hopes her music can reach all people who listen, "I don't separate music by sexuality." She adds that the gay community is a very important base of fans stating that "they are the most supportive. When they love you they love you... they're the most supportive." It is clearly points out that support from the gay community is an important factor in any artist's success.



Remarking on the music industry

Monifah goes on to reveal that "...there are a lot of men and women in the business that are bisexual. Many of the bisexual men in our genre of music exploit women in every way; I felt it was time to bring some reality on this side. It's like the whole lesbian thing in videos (remember when Sisco did it?). I figured it was time for a female to do it too... it happens to all of us and it's real." The reaction I've been getting is what I wanted." While this video reveals what we all have always known as real I wonder what would happen to the music industry, and our society, if artists, like Monifah, were to normalize same gender relationships in songs and videos. Would gay, lesbian, and bisexual artists feel any freer to be themselves, both publicly and in their music/videos?

Questions we are all waiting to have answered.

Monifah admits that her music is not for the faint of heart. She is making some strong statements. She is returning her music to the days when people were singing about things that they cared about and believed in or wanted to challenge in the popular society. "It's weird, because I think my voice and the things I want to sing about are too mature, especially for most teenagers. I'm different. I want people to see the real me. I think that I am really a funky fun chick. That's not the person people expect when they meet me after listening to my music. I think that me and my style contrast, and that's good. Now I'm just trying to be Monifah and let people see the Monifah that my friends and family know." In the music and the videos Monifah says she wants people to get the messages in the lyrics and images. She is singing and writing about "reality and there are two sides to every coin," she says. Particularly Monifah discusses sex and sexuality. She points out with disgust "sexuality is such a taboo thing, still in this millennium. We have such a thing with it [sex]. Monifah feels that it is time that we bring ourselves out if the dark ages, shake the puritan perspective, and "be real with ourselves and each other."

HOME, is music from a real place. A real place in Monifah's heart and soul. She is working hard to be remembered like the artists and vocal stylists who have inspired her. She tells us that her "inspirations are Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Teena Marie, Luther Vandross, Bonnie Rhatt, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald." However, she also states that she wants to use these influences to mold and shape her into an artists that will "appeal to all people," Monifah concedes. Creatively and artistically Monifah says in the creation of HOME, "from the business to the creative sides I was totally aware of what I could do." She adds that she set out to prove to herself and her audience that she could do more and be more than ever before. She has successfully blended her per-

sonal insights into life and love with the sultry sassiness of her vocal style.

"I wanted to be creative and produce a product that people would want to hear," Monifah admits. "The hard part is being creative and real but having to sell records as well," Monifah points out. This is a business and it's not just enough to be good and have a good voice if no one wants to purchase the product. Other challenges on this album were more personal than professional. Monifah states that "vocally it was challenging because he (Teddy Riley-producer) pushed me to my limit." She goes on to add "the things that I thought I could not do I did real easily and I realized that I've been stopping myself." Monifah, continues her reflection, "that was the great thing about working with Teddy Riley. To be in the company of someone who has produced so much great music and so many great artists; he is a really big part of the whole project. The as much a part of me and the music as I am."

This is a good lesson to learn one that she carries out of the studio and into her own home. This idea of pushing beyond your perceived limits to achieve your best will be a lesson Monifah will pass on to her daughter who is currently a 4th grade honor roll student. Monifah says she has come to "really believe in this project. I'm more nervous and anxious than doubtful and unsure. I think it is the best that I could do at the point that I recorded each song." Monifah is quick to point out that her best is always evolving. She says that HOME has allowed her to show her "human side; the part I really want to show."

Well if you're wondering what is next for this versatile artist, Monifah proclaims that she "would love to play the part of Joanna in Rent. I would love to do Broadway." Monifah began her career in TV commercials and the theatre. She was what is affectionately known in the industry as a triple threat. As a singer, actor, dancer Monifah "started doing commercials and Off-Broadway as a kid." Her most memorable experiences in were portraying the character of Hermia in an Off-Broadway production of Shakespeare's A Mid-Summer Nights Dream and being in the first HiC drink box commercial. Monifah attended SH LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts and attributes her introduction to the arts to her "second grade teacher. She heard me sing and thought I had a lot of talent and she talked my mother into taking me to audition for an agency. I started auditioning for commercials and Off-Broad way, I was 6 or 7 when I started."

Monifah's second grade teacher, mother, and everyone who knows her can be proud of the little girl who could. She is maturing and coming into her own as an artist and vocal stylist. She is proving that HOME is where the heart is and she is keeping it real. Look for HOME, Monifah's third album, enjoy and revel in the mastery of music, style, and earthy realness that is Monifah, Princess of Soul.

DIVA With a capital P



Patti LaBelle talks to Clique

When you've been blessed, it's like Heaven. And hearing Patti LaBelle sing is definitely an inspirational experience. Yes, no one does it quite like Ms. Patti, and no one does a better job of telling it like it is, either. Her voice may hook you, but once it's got you in her grasp she takes the opportunity to preach to you. From the stage, her pulpit of choice, LaBelle let's her audience know about the need to love one another and reach out to those different from you, be they black or white, straight or gay.

"It's always been necessary to talk about it, so I've probably been talking about it a long, long time," said LaBelle, who confessed to Clique that she wasn't even sure when her onstage sermons began. "If I'm singing for you and I'm going to give you my heart in a song, then I'm going to give you my heart in a conversation."

And give you her heart she does, and sometimes a pump or an eyelash, too. You never know what might end up flying through the air at a Patti LaBelle show. But don't look for the big hair or the sideways summersaults from this diva anymore. This is not your father's Patti LaBelle.

"I just don't try to do those things anymore," said LaBelle. "I feel good when I go on stage if I feel natural and I feel like I'm not working too hard at my look. I'm just putting on clothes and hopefully they'll come to listen more so than look."

But that don't mean that Ms. Patti's gone lazy.

"I never come out shabby," she said. "I always give you something cool. It's not like I have to worry about giving fans any more of my hair. You know, those fans I used to wear," said LaBelle. "Actually, once I did it, the fans loved it so much I contin-

ued to do it for them. But I feel much easier now when I throw on some chiffon or whatever, or a pair of jeans or pony pants and a shirt and some boots and go on."

Still, you can bet your bottom dollar there's gonna be one hell of a heel on those boots.

"Chile, you'll never catch me with a little flat bobo on," LaBelle said. "You always catch Ms. Patti in a pump, always. I don't play."

Unless she's in front of a camera, like for the upcoming FOX TV movie, "The Wiz," where Patti's set to star as Evillene. Then there's her upcoming show on the Food Network, where she'll sell her own line of linens and china. But the biggest Patti project of the moment is a brand new album, "When A Woman Loves." And for the first time in her career, this a collection of songs by a single writer: Diane Warren.

"I love her writing," said LaBelle. "I said to her a few times about her writing songs for Celine or Whitney and I'd say, 'Why didn't you give that song to me?' So then we worked out a way to do a whole album."

The results are breathtaking, from slow jams like "Make Tonight Beautiful" and "I'll Still Love You More" to bonafide house tracks like "Time Will" and "Too Many Tears."

And sure enough, Ms. Patti is itching to get on the road to promote the effort.

"I love entertaining, I love people. I get bored at home after two weeks. So the excitement, the cheering, the applause and stuff it sounds corny, but it sure does turn me on," said LaBelle, who admits there's something else about her concerts that does it for her. "When you come to a Patti LaBelle show it's like a rainbow, people in ages from eight to 80, and gay and straight and crooked and all kind of people in there. I reach them all, you know, black and white, and they are all together in one room. And hopefully when they leave they can all feel like one."



Jason Michael began his writing career while working for Grammy-award-winning songwriter Betty Wright. He studied journalism at Wayne State University before accepting the position of senior staff writer at *Between the Lines*, Michigan's weekly news for the LGBT community. His writings on race and sexuality have appeared in various publications and collections, including the soon to be released "Journeys Across the Rainbow" from Rainbow Pride Press.

SADE

Lovers Rock

Lovers rock is the first collection of new work by sade in eight years. but it's a record that says less about those years gone by than the promise and vitality of the here and now. it's an album that's by turns moving, elegiac and beautiful. like the tender, acoustic guitar-driven first single, by your side, a song about the tensile strength of love, it is music stripped back to its essential elements: voice, melody, and meticulously arranged instrumentation. the result is a record of bare, sometimes startling immediacy.

But then Helen Folasade Adu is a woman who has never had anything to hide. Born in Ibadan, Nigeria and raised in Colchester, Essex, where she moved at 4 after her english mother separated from her nigerian father, she's spent her life trying to do what feels right, honest and true. because by comparison nothing else has seemed as important. When she was growing up, Sade would listen to soul artists like Curtis Mayfield, Donny Hathaway and Marvin Gaye. Singers uniquely attuned to the complex sensibilities of heartache and



hope, who were skilled enough to create from those feelings, something lasting and transcendent. Still she didn't think about singing herself. Rather, she studied fashion at St Martin's Art College, only signing on as vocalist when a couple of old school friends started a band "until they found a proper singer". from there to singing with early eighties latin funk collective pride, she discovered a rare delight in songwriting. it was while she was with that group that she wrote smooth operator, and it was from there that Sade abandoned diffidence and finally stepped centre stage to form her own group with fellow pride members Stuart Matthewman, Andrew Hale and Paul Spencer Denman. in 1984 their first single your Love Is King became a top ten hit. And quite abruptly Sade herself became an icon. If during the eighties, she seemed to embody newly discovered values of aspiration and elegance, there was, and remains, something more fundamental to account for Sade's popularity. Her music has a resilience that belies its apparent softness. It stays in the heart and in the head long after the last notes have fallen silent, in the same way that the embers of a love affair never

truly go cold. That's why, just a year after the first single, she became one of the few recording artists ever to appear on the cover of time magazine. Because from the very beginning her music transcended the pop moment.

Indeed, with the release in 1984 of her debut diamond life, Sade was speaking to a global audience. featuring hit singles Your Love Is King, Smooth Operator and Hang On To your Love, the album spent 98 weeks on the UK charts and 81 weeks on the Billboard charts. Sade received a BPI Award for best album and a grammy for best new artist. After Diamond Life came 1985's promise, the rich, evocative second album that yielded hits such as Is It A Crime and The Sweetest Taboo, which has become one of the most played songs in radio history. Like it's predecessor, this too was an international multi-platinum success. Yet the paradox of true artistry is that it makes the very difficult appear instinctive and easy. That's why art is so compelling. Because the finished work is so dazzling that it demands a leap of imagination to picture the struggle that's gone into it's conception. This is why Sade, who has never allowed her music to be anything less than immaculate, tantalises audiences so. Throughout her career, there has been intense public curiosity about Sade's private life, as though its uncovering will reveal how she comes to make such compelling music. But modern celebrity culture, with its prurient demands for increasingly intimate revelations, has its perils. And sensing these from early on, Sade has tried simply to remain true to herself by only doing interviews and only making music when she has something to say. Wary of the press clamour that was building in the eighties, the singer relocated temporarily to Madrid, although she strongly refuted "the myth that I'm a shy, reclusive diva. I'm not shy or reclusive. I just spend my time with people rather than journalists." Three years later, she reconvened the group to record Stronger Than Pride, the 1988 hit album which produced memorable singles like Paradise, Love Is Stronger Than Pride and Nothing Can Come Between Us. In the album's wake came a pan-continental tour across Europe, Australia and Japan that included Sade's first full-scale arena tour of America. Throughout their history, the group have always attracted a diverse, multi-racial audience who are drawn by the band's open-minded approach to music. Sade have created dance floor classics, songs for film soundtracks, radio favourites and late night love anthems, at the same time refusing to be classified simply as a pop group, an r&b act, a soul band or anything else as one-dimensional. Instead, like the multi-cultural London streets the group hails from, their music has thrived by embracing diversity as a guiding principle.

In 1992, Sade released Love Deluxe, a bold, emotionally honest album that won huge critical and commercial acclaim. In America it spent 90 weeks on the Billboard charts, while the single No Ordinary Love, featured prominently in the Robert Redford movie Indecent Proposal. In 1994 came the 16 track best of Sade, but now, eight years since her last new work and after 40 million record sales, she releases Lovers Rock. Stripped down and subtle, it is a deceptively simple record that showcases Sade's remarkable talent as a writer of songs that bear a hallmark of enduring refinement. From the spare, acoustic sweetest gift to the poignant all about our love and

**Other Hot
Releases To
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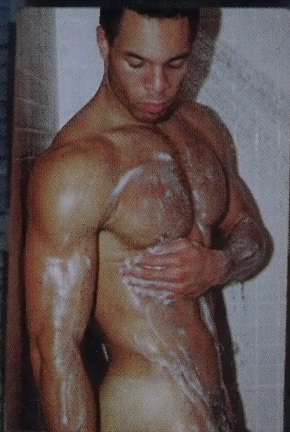
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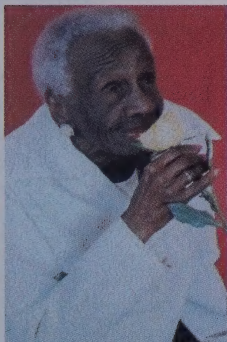
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Detroit

We Are Really Feeling You, Are You Feeling Us?

-- Management, Clique Magazine

Nation's oldest known lesbian of color, dies.



DETROIT — She came to the forefront as her 100th birthday neared last year. With an award-winning documentary traveling the country, "Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100," she was suddenly on the pages of every major lgbt publication in the nation, and even earned profiles in *Essence* and *Ms. Magazine*. "Why's everyone making such a fuss over me," she often asked. "I'm just ordinary little old lady."

But clearly no one believed her cover. Born in Springfield, Ill. on July 23, 1899, Ellis was the daughter of Springfield's first black mail carrier. Her three brothers all served in World War I, before going on to professional careers.

One of them, Harry, became a doctor. Upon his death, Ellis was able to open her own printing press out of her home. By now living in Detroit, the site of the Ellis and Franklin Printing Company doubled on weekends as a dance hall for young lgbts without any place to go. Ellis and her longtime lover, Cecilene "Babe" Franklin, helped out many young kids before "urban renewal" forced them out of their home.

Franklin died in 1975, but fate and the years were kind to Ellis. In her late 80s, she emerged from her retirement a social force, often on the arms of her many much younger lesbian friends. They traveled with her and escorted her to functions such as the Michigan Women's Music Festival, but few could keep pace with her on the dance floor.

The accolades rolled in throughout the last decade of her life. In addition to her film, citations from Detroit's mayor and other elected officials and a host of lifetime achievement awards, Ellis lent her name to the Ruth Ellis Center, an initiative to house and help homeless lgbt youth. "Ruth positively touched lives across North America," said Johnny Jenkins, president of Detroit Black Gay Pride. "Her spirit touched the essence of our humanity."

Frail and finally aided by a cane, Ellis' incredible spirit was freed from its aging body in the early morning hours of Oct. 5, when she made her transition. She was 101.

Staff Writer **M. Liz** Marshall

made her transition back to the Lord

On Sunday, December 3, 2000, at approximately 2:30am in Detroit, M. Liz Marshall made her transition back to the Lord. The news about our dear sister fell down on the community and her family of friends here as a definite heartache and tragedy. There is heavy sorrow upon the city of Detroit at this time.

In her presence you always felt like you knew her. She always came across as your long time friend. That was if she had reason to like you. Hey, that was Liz. For those people that always saw her and could describe her to a T (you know, she was the short, light-skin woman, with the glasses and the reddish, sometimes blonde who wore the natural hairstyles); even though they did not know her name, they feel this loss as much as those that were close to her.

Liz's eccentric ways, for life and love from a distance, were dramatic and yet amusing at times. However to know that about her, was to know Liz. But we were on the outside looking in. Liz loved a good party, but she would stay and

make use of the bad ones as well. There was always something that could be done.

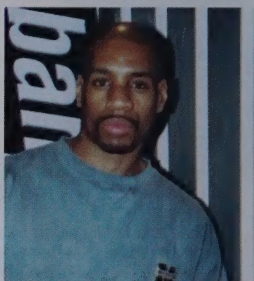
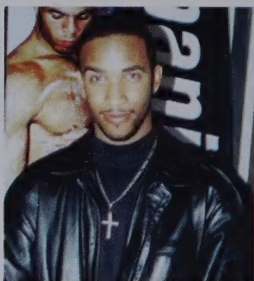
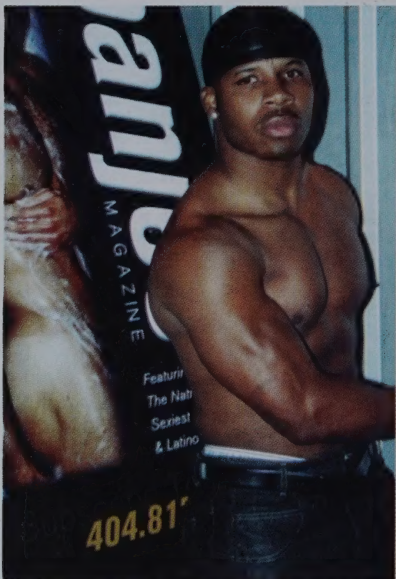
Often times, we fall short of telling the ones that we are closest to, how much we love and appreciate them. We think we have just one more day to do so. But in words as old as all of us, Tomorrow is not Promised. Tell those that you are close to that you love them. And if you can, tell them why. It gives them hope to maybe make it to another day. We need to stop fighting one another so much out of convenience. Start loving more than you argue. And start living to make a difference in not on your life, but someone else's as well.

Liz was an exceptional writer and great poet. Her submissions for *Clikque Magazine* were appreciated and will be greatly missed. Liz's zest for loving the art of words and wisdom was phenomenal.

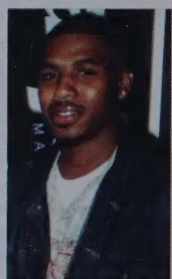
Gena Alexander
Detroit, MI

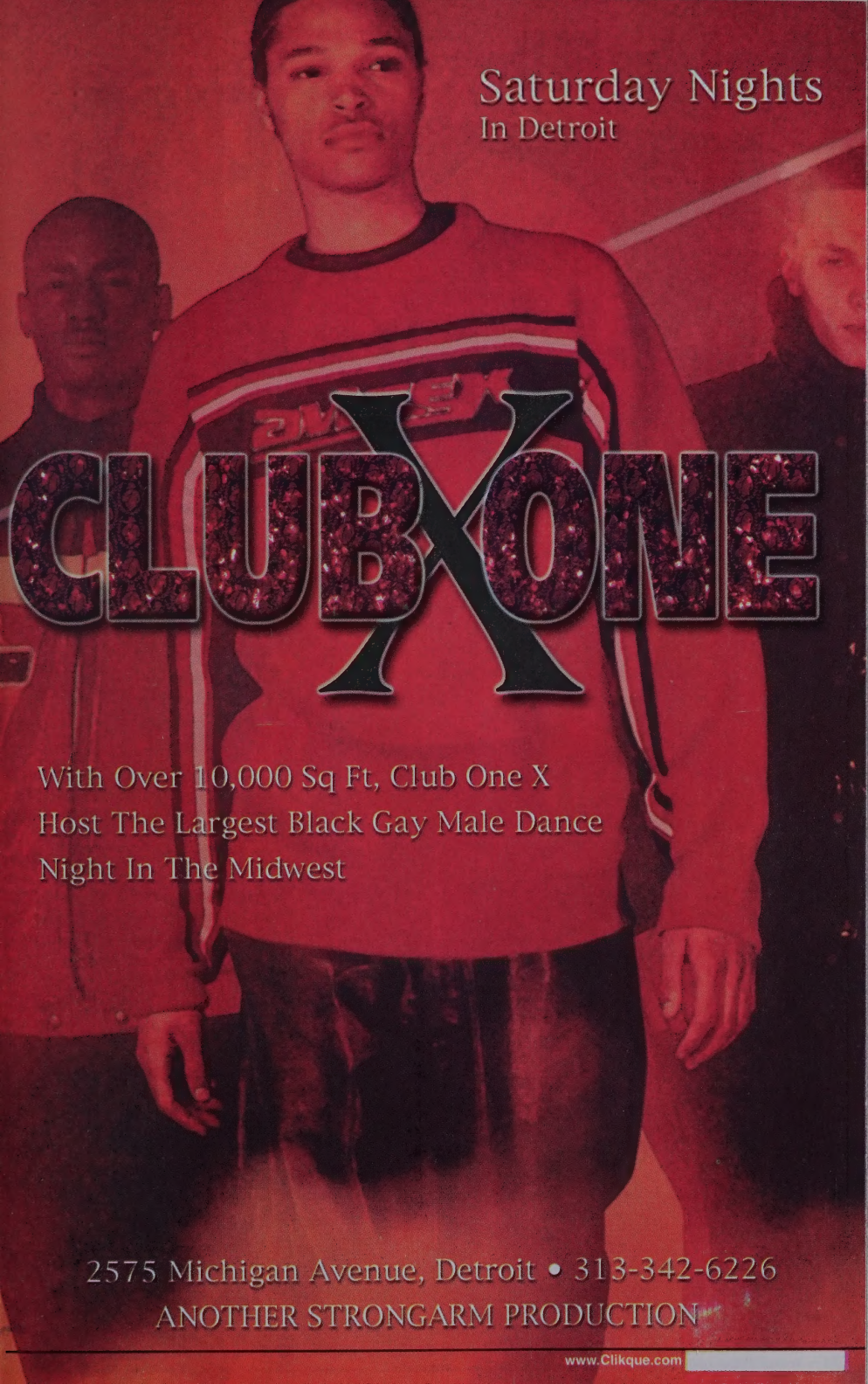


Screen In Detroit



Detroit's finest came out to party with the men of **Strongarm Productions** as they celebrated their 3rd Annual Aphrodisiac Weekend Celebration. **Clikque Magazine** was on hand to cover the event and promote their next venture, **Banjee Magazine**. This year Clikque Magazine, **The Railes Entertainment Group** and **Don Cornelious** formally twith Men of Color were all honored with a community service award from the group.





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Congratulations to **Tamisha Iman**, the newly crowned Miss Black Universe 2000/01. Other notable titles recently held by Tamisha are **Miss National**, and the **Miss Clique America Ameritus 2000**. Also, congratulations to **Ronnie Davis**, Mr. Black Universe held this past October in Atlanta.

Complete story and photos to follow in next month's issue of Clique Magazine



L-R

Tre' Reece, 1st Alternate

Ronnie Davis, Mr. Black Universe

Tiara Russell, 1st Alternate

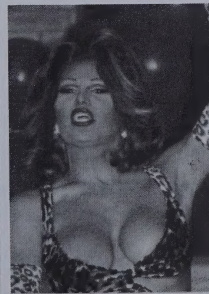
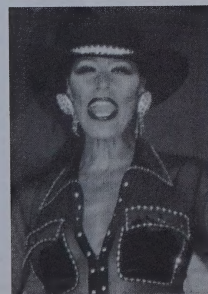
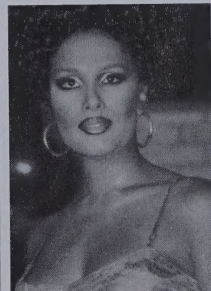
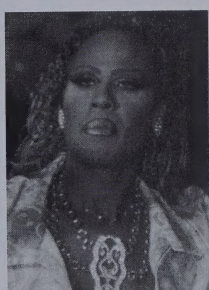
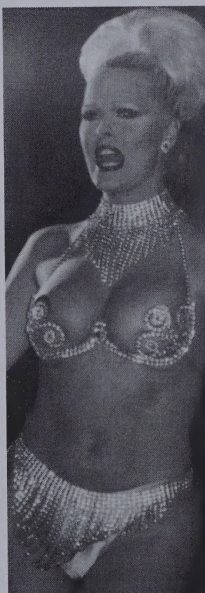
Tamisha Iman, Miss Black Universe

Battle of the Leading Ladies

DETROIT - Lovely, luscious and sometimes lethal, these "ladies" battled it on runway and stage in a two-plus-hour show that left the crowd throwing fits - not to mention dollars. Yes, Dickie Dior has done it again, bringing some of the best talent from around the country to do battle with the Detroit girls.

From Chicago there was Flame Monroe, who provided a little vocal firepower while serving as commentator, along with Mimi Marx, and the lovely Amelia Black. Representing the A-TL was Niesha Dupree, Stasha Sanchez and Nicole Love Dupree. Hometown flavor was provided by the ikes of the legendary April Summers, daughter Diva, Mafia Escada and several upcoming girls from the House of Dior.

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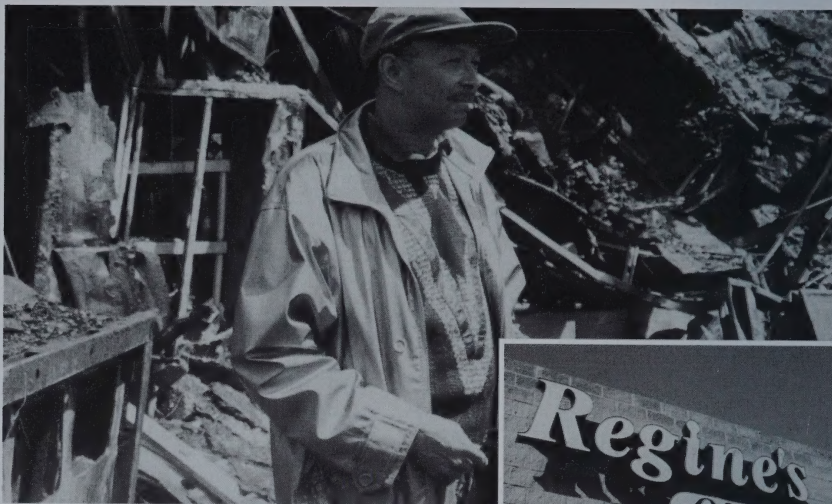
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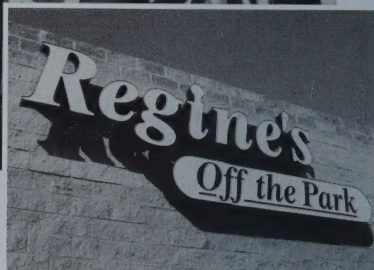
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Popular Nightspot Rebuilding



Regine's owner Regi Thompson surveyed the damage shortly after a May 7 fire gutted his popular club.



Sign o' the times. The new sign for Regine's off the Park prepares passerby for the club's reopening
Photos by Jason Michael

Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.
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**Information
Education
Insight
Knowledge**

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.



Although the needs of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcomes the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include: safe workshops, inviting speakers for organizations and community support efforts, group and individual peer support and health awareness programs, data and tips on health, mental, emotional and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous Confidential Counseling and Testing.

DETROIT — You've probably heard by now that Regine's off the Park, one of Detroit's most popular nightspots, was reduced to rubble following a fire on May 7. But fear not, like the mystical phoenix rising from the ashes, Regine's is set to rise once more. Owner Regi Thompson is rebuilding and this club's rebirth is one to watch for. A 3,200 sq. ft. restaurant is being added onto the main 7,000 sq. ft. dance bar, to equal more than 10,000 sq. ft. of pure fun. "We hope to have it open around the first week of December, but no later than Christmas," predicted Thompson. "We will be back bigger and better."

Strongarm Productions salutes Clikque

DETROIT — We here at Clikque were honored to be recognized by Strongarm Productions, Detroit's premier party throwers, at their third annual Aphrodisiac



Photo By Jason Michaels

(Pictured are Cornelius Wilson, Anthony Winn of Strongarm, Rail Entertainment Group's Kendall Beatty, and Clikque's Dwight Powell and Derrick Goodley.)

event Columbus Day weekend. They hosted us for three off-the-hook nights at some of Detroit's hottest spots, and made us feel real special with a swank brunch at the Hotel St. Regis, where their community service awards were presented. In addition to Clikque, Strongarm also recognized Cornelius Wilson, founder and former executive director of Men of Color Motivational Group of Detroit, and the brothers from Chicago's Rails Entertainment Group.

If you haven't checked out Strongarm's Saturday night set at Club One X, you need to. With the biggest set for brothas in the Midwest, averaging about 600 hot boys every week, it's well worth a trip to the chilly Motor City and is guaranteed to warm you up in a flash. Keep it hot Strongarm, and thanks for the good lookin' out.

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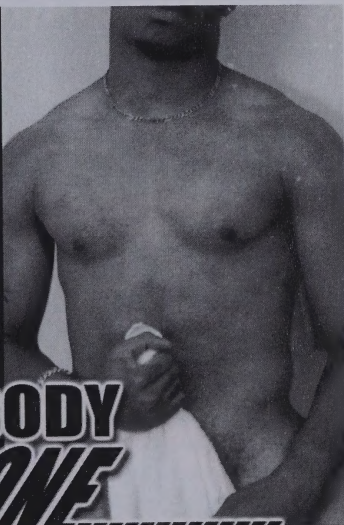
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You Are Greater Than Conceived

Kierkegaard, a famous philosopher once stated that "God is greater than that which can be conceived." Ever since I heard this in college, I have been intrigued by this statement and have found it to be true. Each time God has been defined by people, the reality has been that definitions are limiting and only mere representations of the total truth and reality of God. Now if you hold on to that thought the same holds true for you: you are greater than that which can be (or has been) conceived.

You are more than the zygote that your parents created when the egg and sperm combined. You are more than your education, talent, physical appearance, strengths or challenges. You are more than the things that people have said about you or even the things you have thought about yourself. You are greater than the sum and total of your parts (a mathematical truism).

Ok, let's bring it out of the clouds. Many of us have experienced being a part of the "in crowd" then being "out of the crowd." Some of us know what it is to be in the clique and some of us know what it is to be shunned. Over our life time we will experience these in different ways. You can be in and out when: getting hired to the "perfect job" or getting fired from the "perfect job." You can be in when you move to a new city and join the popular club or group and get involved in organizations and the efforts of the wider community. You can be out when you disagree with the leadership or focus of the group or have a different opinion than some of the community. Try this one: you can be in and then out of the clique when you have been the soloist in the church choir until replaced by the next vocalist to take the stage. Or what about being diagnosed with HIV or cancer.

Well the reality is that you are more than these things. No matter what someone says about you, it does not have to define you. That does not have to be the total truth of who you are. If you take the time to look at these "parts of yourself," decide what you want to keep and use and what you want to discard. There may even be some parts you want to hold on to but put in reserve. The point is that you do not



have to limit yourself or allow yourself to be limited by the thoughts or perceptions of others. You bring more to life than you may presently be aware of. Find the greater good inside of you. Bring all of you to life. You may be sassy, but haven't there been times when your sass has gotten you and others what you needed? Assertiveness can be important when it is time to speak up for yourself or others, particularly for your rights and justice. You may be timid but wasn't there a time when your quietness got more attention and proved to be valuable in meeting your needs or the needs of others? Diplomacy can be a valuable tool in diffusing volatile conflicts.

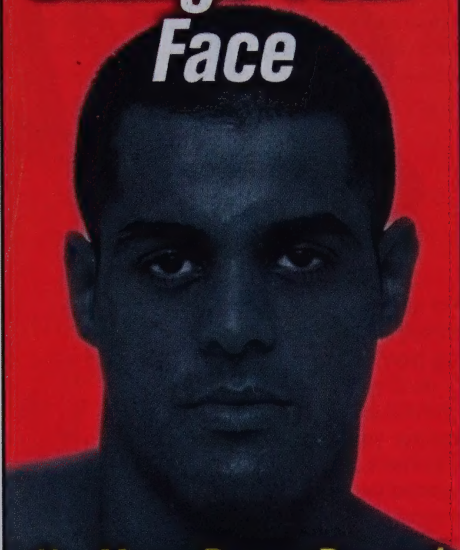
Again, how you experience yourself in the world is based on your own perspective of you. I spent a lot of time-unknowingly-believing that I was unattractive, unloved, and unwanted. This comes from feelings I had growing up and my interpretation of events throughout my life. I thought that everyone else deserved love and consid-

eration, not me. I just did not think love was available to me. So I focused on becoming successful by developing my intelligence, talents and skills and became a caring person giving love to others and working for others to have love in their lives. As a result I have let very few people love me or get really close to me. Here's the trap: I thought that because I did not have very many friends or close relationships that I could not have them. The relationships I have had were filled with suspicions, believing that there were ulterior motives or that the friendships were not genuine. So because I believed that I could not have love, I pushed people away (unconsciously) and then because I did not have many significant relationships, I took this to be proof of being unloved and unwanted, unless I was doing something for someone else. Wow!!! The end result was that I had a lot of love welling up inside of me to give out, never expecting to be able to receive it, and therefore became clingy and needy to those I came in contact with. Well I am still working on this mind set. It took me many years to develop these patterns and it will take some time to clear my head of the effects.

My point is that it took some very painful and drastic events in the past few years to get me to challenge these notions about myself. I have decided to like myself as much as I like others. I have decided to value myself beyond my gifts and talents. I have decided to believe that I am not unattractive. And I have decided to let people in, really in, to who I am, not just the activist, performer, educator, therapist, friend but also the whole person. I am more than the comments people have made about me. I am more than the things I have believed about myself. I am not better than anyone else is but I am valuable as everyone else is.

YOU are too. You are becoming the "you" nobody knows. You are priceless. No matter what your family or friends may say or think, you are a vital part of this universe. You exist because there is a meaning and purpose for your life. Life would not be the same without you. There is no better time than now to be free of the shame, pain, anger, hurt, and disease that has plagued you for so long. Life is worth living. Go deep within and find the god inside. Have a conversation and realize that God is greater than any definition we could come up with; so are you. Believe it. YOU are greater than anything that can be conceived about YOU, even by you.
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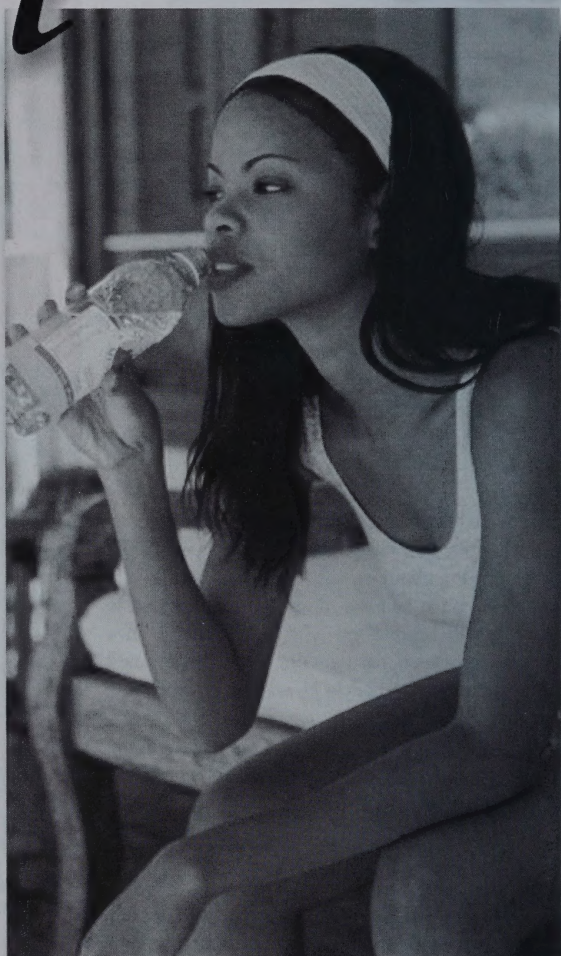
girl FANTACIES

By Terry Luv

For quite some time now I have found myself sitting in front of the T.V watching New York Liberty games. I usually don't want to be bothered by anyone and everyone knows this. Why so serious you ask? Maybe Hammons 3-pointers. Maybe the awaited but not needed return of Lobo to the court, or maybe the new weapon on the court Tari Phillips. Yes, those are some good reasons but they aren't my reasons. Shall I explain???

It is that creamy light brown skinned body, those throbbing muscles, sexy lips and seductive eyes. I can't forget those 11 braids that accent this fine-ass women unlike the cornrolls do for anyone else.

Teresa Weatherspoon, the one I find myself getting extremely excited over. The one who makes it impossible to control the throbbing of my inner self after watching. It gets to the point where I close my eyes and imagine myself as the one she is chasing down the court as I am seriously waiting for her to foul me very hard. As the referee blows the whistle for her to back off of me the other referees



come over to pull us apart only to see her grinding me hard onto the floor. I open my eyes and once again....reality. Lately I have found myself waking up extremely turned on and daydreaming about what it would be like to wake up and see T-Spoon in the bed next to me. I lay there and stare at her strong body asleep, clothed only by a bra and basketball shorts. As I pull myself close to her I began to run my tongue up and down her arms, muscles, and neck. As I am rubbing my tongue up and down I see she is

beginning to moan in her sleep to the feel of my lips and tongue against hers. Her eyes open as the first sight she sees is me on top of her waiting for her to open her mouth so I can slide my wet, warm, tongue in her mouth. Before she does..once again reality....

I do have a guy friend and I do tell him about my fantasies involving Teresa. As with any other guy he is extremely turned on by the thought of two women but for a while I still wasn't comfortable because I knew in his mind the fantasy was Teresa and I having oral sex and sucking on each other breasts. In my mind the fantasy was: Her in a weight room, lying on her back lifting. I walk in wearing nothing but a T-Shirt. She tries to get up as I quickly straddle her and tell her to just relax. As she relaxes she begins to smile. Grabbing my thighs while I began to thrust my hips hard and slow against her hard lower body. The more I do it the wetter I am getting at the sight of her biting on her bottom lip and her eyes rolling to the back of her head as if there was a little voice inside her head saying, "O YEAH BABY". I began to rub my chest with one hand as I rub hers with the other one. I start to feel her moving her hips up into me. Then she sits straight up on the bench while I continue to give her the ultimate lap dance. She holds on to me as if I was the only thing stopping her from falling. After a while of this she gets up and runs to lock the door. As she returns she finds me laying on my back against the bench with my hands deep into my panties. She stands there in front of me, staring at me, listening to me. I can tell she is excited by the way she begins to unzip her shorts. She leans down toward me and tells me to put her hands where I want them to be on my body. As I take her hands and place them between my legs she makes a face as if she's just made an awesome crossover lay-up. You know that "Damn I'm the shit look that Teresa makes. She feels the wettest, warmest place imaginable on my body.

Feeling so in control and knowing it because of the way I am moaning and

thrusting my hips up and down on her hand T-Spoon says in a sneaky voice, "I want you to feel what you're doing to me". She then opens my legs wide while kissing me deeply as if she was trying to kiss and touch every part of my mouth, at the same time hinting to me of what is to come by the movements of her tongue. She starts to go down further often coming back up to tease

me and ask me what her name is. *Before I can say anything she aggressively pushes her tongue into my secret spot. Again she asks, "what's my name", again I try to answer but am interrupted by her tongue again, as the only word that come out of my mouth are the not even words, they are the sounds you make that would make someone walking by the door, STOP and wonder.* As I began to feel myself going into another state of mind (we'll call it ECTASY), T-Spoon asks again, "You ready to feel what you've done to me?" "Are you, are you?"

She asks very impatiently. Without waiting for my response she pulls her shorts down and exposes the prettiest thing I had ever seen in my life. Aggressively she grabs my legs again and places her body deeply between the inside of my legs. I lay there about to cumm just by all the things going on in my head she whispers in my ear, "Do you feel how wet you have made me?"...I look directly in her eyes as she is moving herself all over me. In my head I can't believe it. T-Spoon making a whole new meaning for the phrase "Bumpin' and Grindin". Working it on me as if she invented it. With my legs open making sure I feel everything. As I began to wrap my legs around her waist tighter and grab those muscles T-Spoon grabs the barbell that is resting on the stand of the bench above my head as if to pull herself deeper and harder into me. As if to see how wet we both can get.....

Then I open my eyes and this once again was just a fantasy..

These may be just fantasies but it is what is in my heart and I hope for the day I come close to either of these.

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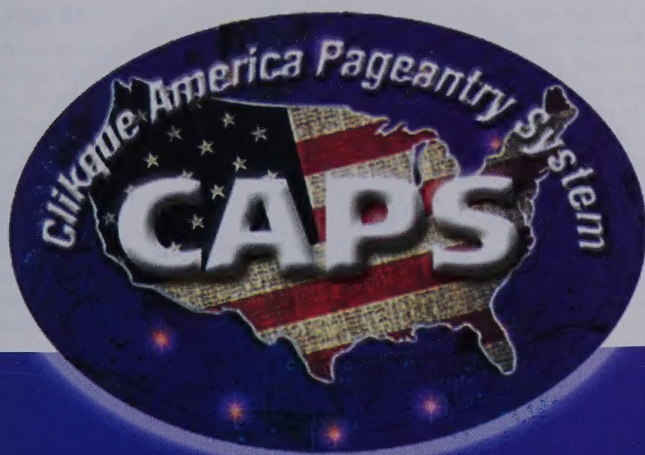
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Continued From Page 22

you listen to it. For you this maybe the Second Chance to reestablish a much want and needed relationship with the Lord! A Second Chance can come in many forms and for many reasons none of which have to be for negative reasons or because you are all broke down in need! Just to receive the love of God is enough!

In the last year, starting about October of 1999 I've been battling what I thought was allergies and turn out to be a lung infection. This pass August, right after my birthday I contacted my doctor and made him take chest x-rays and stop telling me that my excessive cough and fatigue was as of result of allergies and hay fever! When he got the x-rays back he found I had a mass on my left lung. The first diagnosis from my lung doctor was tuberculosis, the second diagnosis was a lung abcess, the third diagnosis was lung cancer, and the final diagnosis is a lung infection. With each every diagnosis I turn it over to the Lord and rested in my belief that he would heal me! It was not hope, fear, or desperation, it was confidants as stated in the very beginning of my

article through Philippians 1:6. In my suffering and sickness I learned that it was not to kill me but to purify my body and make it ready for a new level of life! This life would be one that God would direct and I would finally follow. For 42 years I've been doing things my way and there has been highs and lows! There will always be some highs and lows but today I know that the way God has chosen for me is more excellent way! This won't make me a bible token, gospel sing sing sissy who's every word is Praise The Lord; It's made me to know that his purpose for my life is true and focused and with my eyes wide open I can see that I"

- 1) Chose life, love, and the pursuit of happiness!
- 2) Fathering my daughter.
- 3) Walking in my calling and purpose for life.

With holiday season approaching I have a greater sense of gratefulness because God is The God of a Second Chance! Although this is probably chance number 2001 I know that I can always stand believing that I'm his and I love him more today than ever before. If you will thank God with me for Life and that more abundantly!



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Continued From Page 31

It's vital to me to have some understanding of the context in which I live, that is, my position(ing) in this social system. I'd like to think that with some level of consciousness and sense of compassion that I would never be fooled by what appears to be progress while many continue to languish in poverty and other social ills. We all know that having some financial means and education can blur the edges a bit, but overall it does little to ameliorate the damage done by our bloody inheritance called history. It just means that some of us sleep a little easier. Which could be the point.

So my "mainstream-ness" can only be measured against my downtrodden, miseducated sisters and brothers. As I climb the ladder of financial freedom and success (I plan to have a house in Barbados, and a penthouse in New York) many of us obviously aren't. I sit, if uncomfortably, in a place of pseudo-privilege, one that I feel can be revoked at any given moment as a black or gay man. To combat this, I try to be aware that who I am is not what I own.

I'm only in an uproar about all of this because I've had my face slapped with class and caste issues

all my life. I've been riddled with intra-racial loathing, pummeled with conventional masculinity, ravaged by ignorant ideas about same-sex love. I'm tired. Living in a social system that encourages the disintegration of self is no prize for me, but rather a call to arms. We who have some access to the various power systems need to make what we have useful not only to ourselves, but for those who don't have access. But isn't it ironic that many people who experience some ascension treat others who still languish in poverty of means with contempt?

Too deep, eh? Not deep enough? Fact is, "mainstream" or not, labeling ultimately undermines any authentic dialogue between people who are worth considerably more than any class, gender and sexual distinction. If we don't learn to love each other, then we will continue to feel disconnected. That's not a function of difference, but an unwillingness to recognize our sameness.

So, I'll keep my "mainstream-ness" firmly tucked in my teeth, using it sparingly with the full understanding that words and assumptions can limit anyone's potential to greatness, and that speaking the King's English generally gets you better service over the phone.

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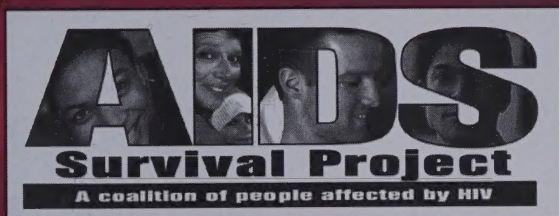
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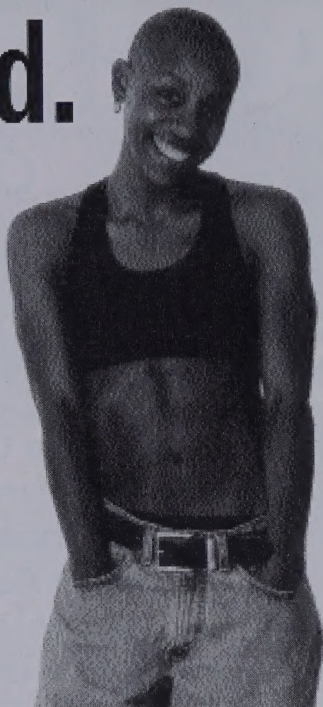


PHOTO: JEFFREY M. JONES

Continued from Page 27

gays and lesbians and access her power as a heterosexual. I believe homophobia can be further challenged as more people understand the interlocking nature of oppression.

But it will take more than education to achieve such shifts in black collective consciousness. People learn about each other from working on common goals, being in the trenches together. Intentional coalitions between openly lgbt and straight black people, organizing to address not only AIDS, but racial profiling, affirmative action, violence against women, homelessness, public education, as well as anti-gay oppression such as legal discrimination, religious condemnation, physical and verbal abuse and murder. Those of us who are openly lgbt activists often direct our energies specifically on lgbt community-building and/or may collaborate more often with white gay organizers than black straight organizers. By placing ourselves on the front lines of non-lgbt specific liberation struggles we can model the level of coalition-building that builds relationships and gradually yields consciousness growth in our own communities.

Renowned Atlantan leaders such as Coretta Scott King, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, Rep. John Lewis, Senator Vincent Fort, Mayor Bill Campbell, Rev. Barbara King and Rev. Tim McDonald have spoken out against homophobia in various ways. It is my hope that other leaders in the black community will

follow their example. It is my belief that in the meantime, it is the "everyday" people whose quotes don't make headlines who will help us as a people achieve a higher level of acceptance of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgendered. There are everyday people, many of whom are straight, who have lesbian daughters or transgendered friends whom they accept without judging. I urge you to encourage your straight friends, relative and allies to confront others in the workplace, at the dinner table or the ball court, when those others display homophobic words and/or actions. Just as white people have a responsibility to confront racism, so must straight people call out homophobia, to send the message that this is not acceptable. We as a people cannot effectively mobilize to fight the AIDS epidemic or any of the other crises threatening our survival if the majority either practices or tolerates prejudice against those of us who are not hetero or traditionally gendered. Debbie understood that because she saw herself and those she met who may have been different from her, still as everyday people, as "people" everyday of her life. As I reflect upon the masses of walkers, volunteers, guest speakers and assorted pets, I close my eyes and I still see Debbie. I remember the range of her love and acceptance. I remind myself of the infinite power of faith and possibilities.

Craig Washington is a writer/activist who serves as a board member of YouthPride and a member of the Mayors' LGBT Senior Advisors Committee.

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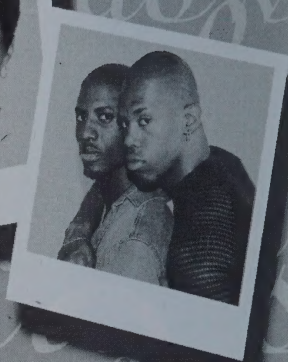
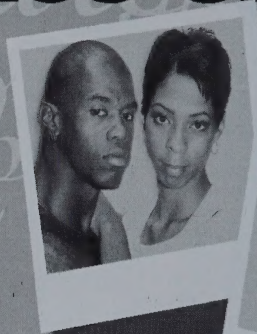
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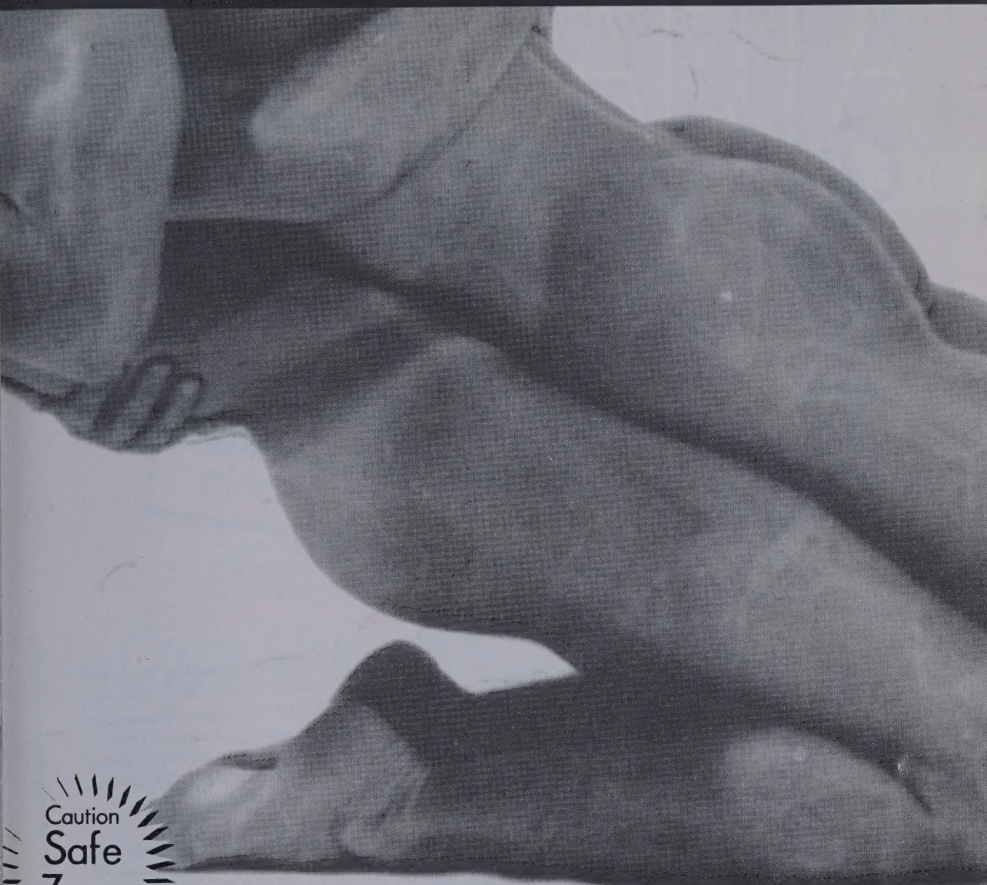
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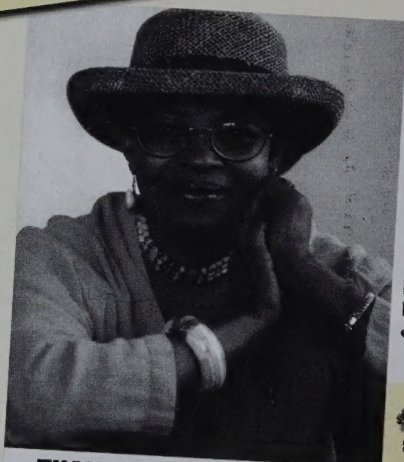
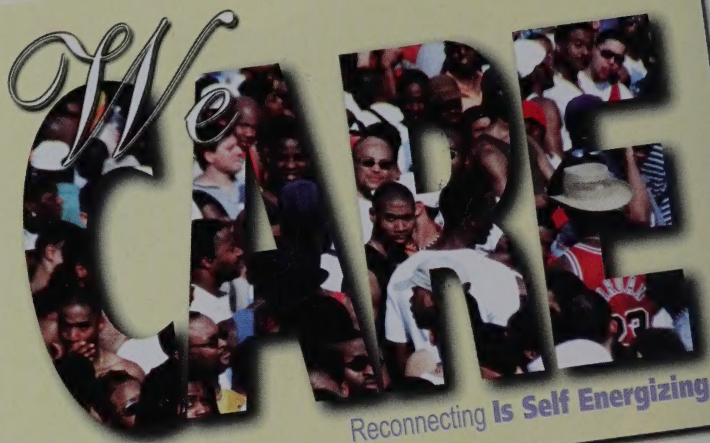
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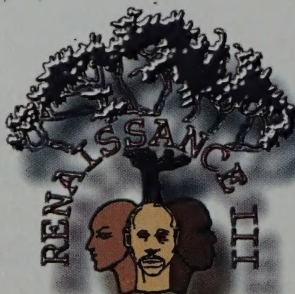
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• Designs will be evaluated on how well it represents the goals and ideals of the Pride Committee, it's visual attractiveness and interpretation of the theme:

EDUCATE-CELEBRATE-PARTICIPATE

• Please make sure to include the words:
Atlanta Pride Celebration June 2001

• The designer('s) name(s) and phone number(s) must be on the BACK only !

• All designs SHOULD include a brief explanation of concept.

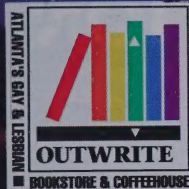
• Designs DO NOT have to use the RAINBOW colors to be considered.

• The field of entries will be narrowed to no more than 3 to be presented and voted on at the January Pride meeting.

**• SUBMIT ALL ART TO
THE PRIDE OFFICE BY
JANUARY 17, 2001 @ 5PM**

• NOTE: all rights to the selected design will be owned by The Atlanta Pride Committee Inc.

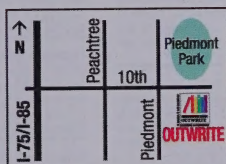
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PARTY GUY Very good-looking African/American, 40, total bottom, party Guy. Seeking hot, erotic top who can take care of me. You will be pleased. (San Francisco) #10912

BODY BUILDER Very well-built, 24-year-old Male, 6'6", 250 lbs., shaved head, goatee, tattooed. If interested, leave a message. (Anaheim) #10599

I NEED A TEACHER GHM, 43, romantic, first time experience seeking patient friend, age open, who is a good instructor and willing to show me the way to having a good time. (Torrence) #10193

DAVE IS AN 18-year-old Male, well-endowed, very oral, enjoys anal sex. If interested, leave a message. #10766

EAGER FIRST TIMER Len is a 32-year-old Male, 5'9", 150 lbs., brown/brown, in good shape, tan. Seeking dominant, well-endowed, Daddy-type Male, for first time experience. (Palm Springs) #22695

NOT INTO PAIN Gary enjoys bondage. Seeking Male under 29, lean, hard body, muscular, thin, submissive, very oral, for fun times. #21389

THANK YOU SIR Jim is a 48-year-old Male, 5'10", 183 lbs., bottom, enjoys B&D, S&M, watersports. If interested, leave a message. #10751

LET'S HOOK UP Shawn is a 26-year-old Male, 6'0", 170 lbs., good-looking, brown/blue, well-endowed. Seeking Male to hook up with. (San Diego) #12417

Florida

GBM, 21, SEEKING B/HGM who is interested in hooking up with a definite bottom. If you are a hot top, let's talk and see where it goes. Give me a holler. (Miami) #10902

STRETCHY FABRICS TURN ME ON 49-year-old GWM, 5'11", HWP, good-looking, enjoys pantyhose, massage, touching, kissing, mutual masturbation, the outdoors, movies, theater. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Jacksonville) #10631

Georgia

THEY CALL ME "Q" Cute BM, 5'11", 195 lbs., straight-up, masculine brother, enjoys working-out seeking counterpart who is straight-up and on the down low. (Atlanta) #14122

THIS COULD BE THE REAL THING GBM, nice Guy, 155 lbs, 6', cute, sexy, hard body seeking GM, age and race is open, for a possible relationship. Please no fats, femmes, no games players. (Atlanta) #14041

LET'S TALK IT OVER GBM seeking GBM, sincere, down-to-earth, educated who is interested in conversation and exploration of new adventures. Your age is unimportant. (Atlanta) #13867

KEEP IT BRIEF GBM, 28, bottom, attractive, 175 lbs, goatee, toned, attractive seeking GM, age and race is open, with similar qualities for friendship and possible LTR. Let's try to hook up and see where it will go. #14958

ARE YOU MY SPECIAL SOMEONE? GB/HM, 28, goatee, mustache, 32" waist, enjoys travel, dinner, movies, shopping. Seeking GM, who is monogamous and can relate to a sincere, dedicated and honest person. (Atlanta) #12878

LET'S KICK IT GBM, 23, new to Atlanta, seeking young, attractive GM, 21-30, to get to know and hang-out with. I will be good to you, if you know what I mean. Give me a holler. (Atlanta) #12773

ARE YOU READY FOR ME? GBM, 23, 135 lb 5'7", healthy, drug-free seeking masculine, top GM, age and race is unimportant, for casual dating and fun times. Discretion is assured. (Savannah) #12417

LET'S GET DOWN GBM, 6'7", 27, hard-worker. Single too long seeking counterpart who is nice, steady and commitment-minded. If this sounds like you, let's try to hook up and see where it goes. (Savannah) #12326

LET'S KEEP IT ON THE DL SBM, 37, 6'1", 210 lbs seeking masculine, down-to-earth Male, for companionship, friendship and see whatever else comes up. (Atlanta) #12300

EX-MARINE 24-year-old BM, 5'7", 190 lbs., top. Seeking bottom Male, masculine, to kick it with, for friendship. (Atlanta) #11867

CIGAR SMOKER A PLUS GM wants to meet a straight-acting, burly, heavy-set GM who is into o/s and a/s. If this appeals to you drop me a message. (Albany, GA) #10573

STRAIGHT-ACTING BROTHER GBM seeks brother BM, who is straight-acting and discreet. Let's try to kick it and see where it will go. Give me a holler. #10512

LET'S DO IT GBM, very discreet, bottom seeking GBM, top, not over 27, for discreet fun and good times. Give me a call. Have your own wheels. #11576

LOOKING FOR NEW FRIEND GBM, 28, 6'1", hopefully looking for a LTR. If you are a GM, age and race is open, and might be looking for a new friend, let's try to hook up and see if we are a match. (Atlanta) #10793

KICK IT AROUND No game playing, no bull. GBM, 5'10 195 lbs., brown skin, seeking B/HM, down-to-earth who is interested in a new Male friend. It is all good, let's chill and kick it around. (Georgia) #11278

LOOKING FOR COOL TIMES GBM, 5'11", 32" waist, 42" chest, nice tight butt, seeking brother to mess around with. Let's give it a go. You will be pleased. (Dunwoody) #11263

VERY SEXY Reginald is a 34-year-old Male, 6'0", 180 lbs., HIV+, healthy, sexy, versatile. If interested, leave a message. (Atlanta) #11018

MASCULINE MEN ONLY Jimmy is a GBM, 5'7", 135 lbs., HIV+, versatile, attractive. Seeking masculine, discreet BM, for friendship, possible relationship. (Atlanta) #10468

NO STRINGS Donald is a 29-year-old Male, 5'7", 205 lbs. Seeking a well-endowed B/HM 35-60, for fun times. (Atlanta) #22796

LIKE TO FREAK? Tony is a brown-skinned BM, 5'9", 170 lbs., 6". Seeking Male late-30s, out-going, who likes to freak. #22481

FRIENDSHIP IN ATLANTA Marcus is a very attractive Male, 5'9", 160 lbs., clean-cut. Seeking masculine, top, muscular Male, for friendship in the Atlanta area #18374

KEVIN IS A 27-year-old WM, 5'8", 130 lbs., dark/blue, smooth. Seeking Male for friendship or whatever. (Atlanta) #20971

Illinois

REACH OUT FOR ME GBM, 5'9", dark features seeking Gentleman who wishes to have a femme bottom. If you are straight-acting, strong and know what to do, then I could be the person for you. (Chicago) #13821

IN THE GOOD OLE SUMMERTIME Senior BIM is seeking a HIV- GM, who enjoys receiving and giving o/s. Anything is open except pain and drugs. Let's try to connect. (Chicago) #13494

FUN TIMES AHEAD GHM, 25, easygoing, fun-loving, caring and understanding seeking GBM, 18-27, n/s, who enjoys working out, sports. We can have a great time together. (Chicago) #13209

CATCH OF THE DAY GWM, 6'4", 195 lbs, very muscular, 45, very dark brown, blue eyes, very healthy, seeking well-endowed bottom GM, 6'+, who is romantic, nurturing, honest. Age and race is open. (Chicago) #10822

HISPANIC SCORPIO George is a 48-year-old GBM, 5'10", 150 lbs., Scorpio, bottom, passionate, sexual, enjoys gardening, cooking barbecuing, going out, quiet evenings, dining out, walks, biking. Seeking Male top, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #10705

I LIKE MESSAGES BiWM, 31, open-minded, sincere seeking friend who enjoys massages, interesting times and some new adventures. Let's try to connect and give it a go. #10341

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is B/HM, 5'6", 34" waist, new to the area. Seeking a down-to-earth, well-endowed Male to hook up with. (Chicago) #10231

BATMAN SEEKING ROBIN Masculine, 35-year-old Male, 6'0", 185 lbs., enjoys costumes, mild bondage, toys, restraints. Seeking submissive, Male 21-45, under 5'9", with similar interests. #10435

Michigan

ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH? GBM, 30, Single parent, attractive, seeking masculine Male for friendship and possible relationship. If you are a top, cool and knows what he is doing, let's try to hook up. (Detroit) #13914

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TV AND OTHERS BM seeks TV for fun times. You must be discreet. Let's enjoys each other's company and share new experiences. (Detroit) ♣13963

LIFETIME PARTNER GWM, 32, 5'5", East Side, seeking GM, 18-19, to settle down with. If you are the right person we can share a rewarding future. Please leave a message. (Detroit) ♣14006

HAVE THE EQUIPMENT CD, mid-30s, seeking SM/Couple who can tie good knots. I enjoy bondage and being tied up. (Groves Point) ♣13962

CROSS-DRESSER SWM, closet CD, enjoys rough treatment. If you are dominant and know what to do, I'm the one for you. (Detroit) ♣17803

LET'S KICK IT Attractive GBM, 27, 5'11", 170 lbs, seeking attractive B/HM, for fun, hanging out or maybe something deeper. Please be a n/s, n/d. Peace. (Detroit) ♣13852

THIS IS FOR REAL SWM, closeted CD, has straight-jacket seeking GM who can tie a good knot. If you live on the East side let's try to hook up. (E Detroit) ♣13889

SEEKING NEW FRIEND GWM new to area, down-to-earth, not a game player, enjoys movies, romantic dinners and walks. Seeking counterpart that has same desires and likes. Let's try to hit it off. (Detroit) ♣13784

STRONG-WILLED CONSERVATIVE GBM, 36, 5'4", 130 lbs, attractive, straight-acting, conservative, old-fashioned, enjoys dining out, travel, occasional club scene ISO GM, age and race is open, n/s, who is honest, sincere and is interested in a possible LTR. (Detroit) ♣13811

COULD BE YOU GBM, 31, top, 5'11", 185 lbs, medium complexion, enjoys bike riding, plays, concerts. Seeking GBM, 18-35, for casual dating. If you are honest and truthful and desire a long-term relationship, let's try to hook up. (Detroit) ♣13751

LET'S KICK IT Attractive GBM, masculine, 6'3", 200 lbs seeking counterpart for friendship and possible LTR. Let's try to hook up. (Detroit) ♣13695

LET'S CHILL BACK GBM, 5'11", muscular, goatee, romantic, likes to chill back and relax. If you want to find out more, you know what to do. (Detroit) ♣13436

SAFE GET TOGETHERS GBM, 44, muscular, 6', 187 lbs seeking WAM for occasional safe get togethers. All calls will be answered. (Detroit) ♣13464

New York

CUTE BUBBLE BUTT Hunky GM, 40, small hand, seeking bubble butt who is into fisting. You will be pleased, give me a call. ♣20784

LOOKING FOR BUBBLE BUTT GM is into a/s. If you like all toys and good butt play, I am the Man for you. Safe sex is assured. (Hackensack) ♣20784

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) ♣14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 6' enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) ♣14810 ♣22721

Tennessee

SAFE SEX A MUST GWM, mid-40s, 6', 165 lbs, tan, trim, enjoys outdoors, skiing, hiking, boating, water-skiing, fishing. I am a n/s, social drinker. Seeking GM, 35-48, race is open, for friendship and casual dating. Safe sex is a must. (Kentucky Lake) ♣13620

REDNECK BEAR TOP Are you a hairy, strong, redneck bear top, then I am the Man for you. I am a definite bottom, please leave a message. (Asheville) ♣10823

YOU CALL I HAUL GWM, very submissive seeking dominant Male who can show me the ropes in how to become a very obedient slave. (Memphis) ♣10643

Texas

INTO ALL RAUNCH Hungry and thirsty. Raunch pig bottom needs action. Likes all sports, partying, boot service, sweaty stuff. You will be surprised. ♣11180

THIS IS FOR REAL GWM, 32, slim build, seeking real Guy who is interested in a serious relationship. ♣11176

YOU ARE THE BOSS GBM, 23, bottom seeking top M, 21-35, if interested let's try to get together. You will be pleased. (Houston) ♣13871

STARTING A NEW LIFE Very stocky, muscular BIWM, very athletic, 38, 5'11", 220 lbs, loves the outdoors, animals, sports, rock-n-roll, seeking GM, 25-40, handsome, muscular, well-educated, drug-free, no game player. Please show me the way to good time and new adventures. (Dallas) ♣13567

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN GBM outgoing, friendly and active seeking friends that have similar likes. Let's kick it. Hit me back. (Houston) ♣13420

FIT THIS DESCRIPTION? Cupid is a 21-year-old Male, 5'7", 125 lbs., enjoys singing, dancing, writing music, modeling. Seeking tall Male, 20-30, nice personality, good-humored, fun-loving. (Houston) ♣10776

OPEN TO ANYTHING Leo is a BM, 5'8", 175 lbs., light complexion, HWP, enjoys having fun, going out. Seeking Male for friendship, possible relationship. (Houston) ♣10503

HIT ME SBM, enjoys having fun, chillin'. Seeking versatile SBM, with similar interests. (Houston) ♣10078

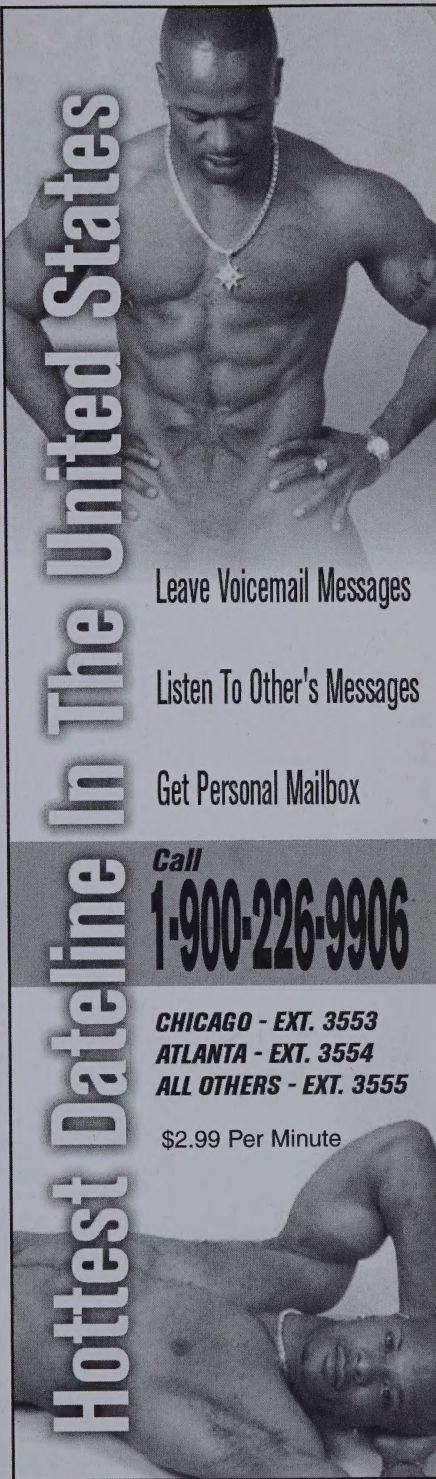
RAUNCHY LEATHER DADDY Jay is 5'10", 185 lbs., short hair, clean-shaven. Seeking pig boy bottom. ♣22782

Virginia

VERY VERSATILE BOTTOM GWM, 35, 6', 165 lbs, very good-looking, bottom seeks counterpart who desires to try some new and wild times. If you are a hot top I can be the man for you. Your age and race is unimportant. (Danville) ♣13989

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-year-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. ♣17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncult Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) ♣15741



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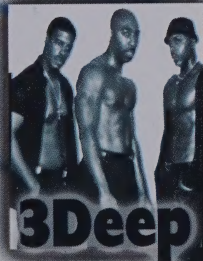
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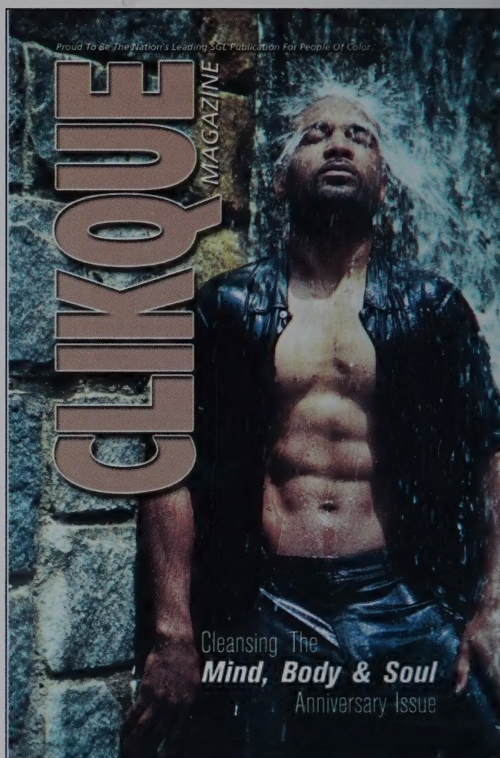
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Highlights

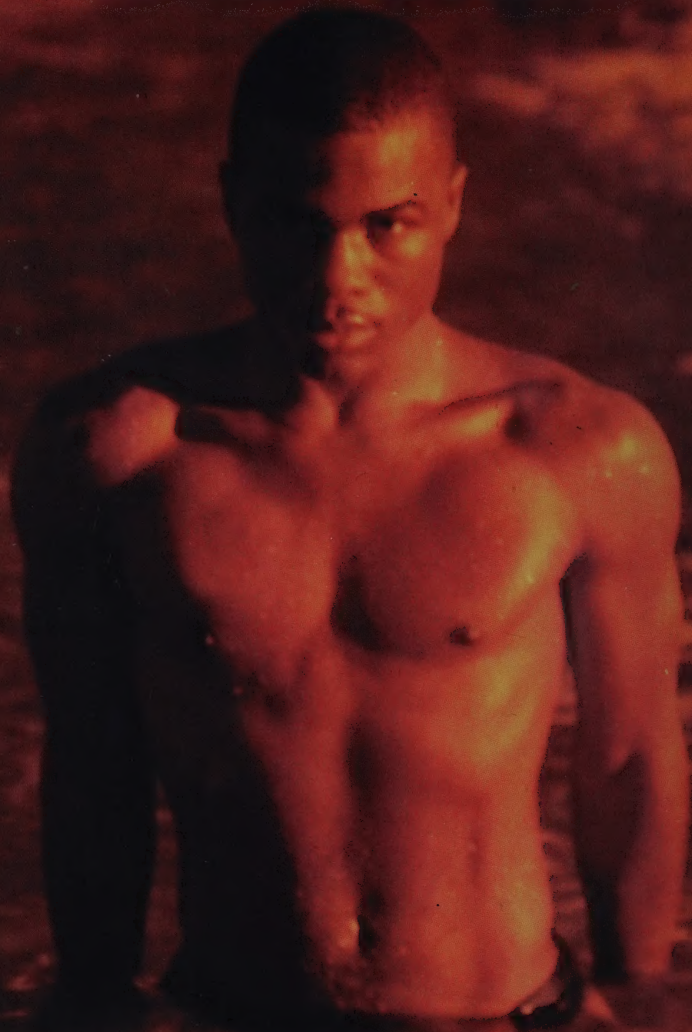
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**Happy
3rd Year
Anniversary
May 1998
May 2001**

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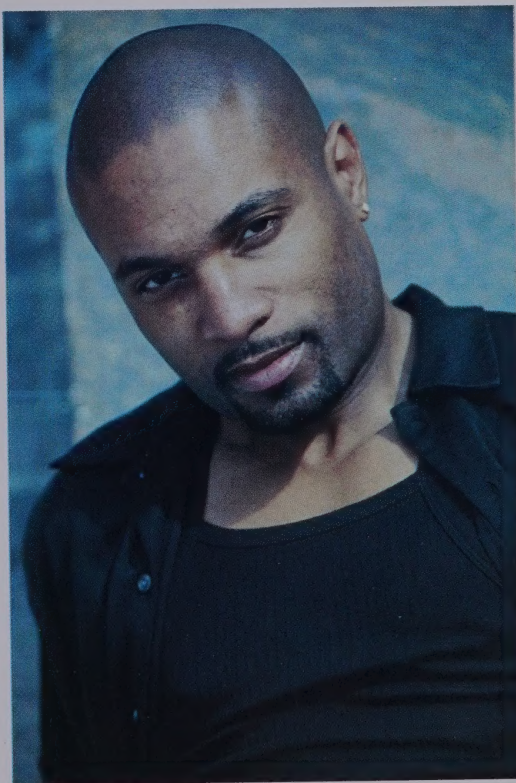


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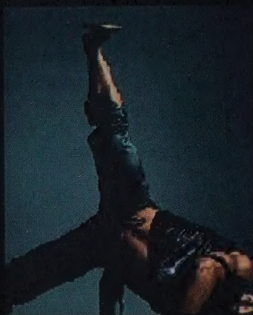
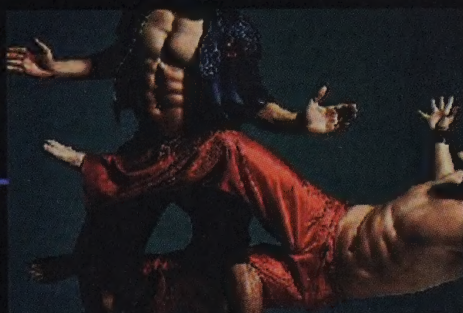


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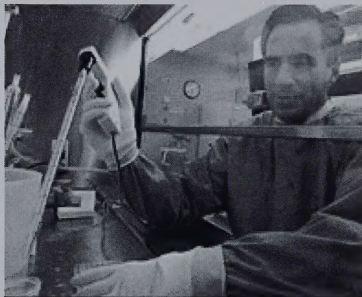
CAN AIDS EVER BE CURED?

The latest research on the resourceful HIV virus that causes the disease suggests a disheartening answer: Probably not.

Just a few years ago, even some of the most sober-minded researchers wondered if the end of AIDS might be near. Perhaps the pills that miraculously changed HIV from a death sentence to a chronic infection would go the final step, they thought, eventually curing the infection by purging every trace of the virus from the human body.

Such talk quickly faded. The new drug cocktails, amazing as they were, could not get rid of the virus. Even if all signs of it vanished for years, HIV was still lurking somewhere. Inevitably it roared back by the billions as soon as people stopped taking their medicines.

Ever since that realization sank in, finding



Dr. Robert Siliciano, of Johns Hopkins University, regularly tests the blood of about 50 Baltimore AIDS patients, measuring HIV's persistence

HIV's hiding places has been the goal of a small group of researchers. What they have learned is one of the biggest disappointments in AIDS research.

The fact that HIV is an insidious and resourceful parasite is hardly a surprise. After all, AIDS researchers already understand in lavish detail how HIV latches onto human blood cells, how it oozes inside and kills them. They know the significance of every bump and crevice on the surface of the virus and how these shield it from destruction.

But no basic AIDS discovery in recent times has proved so disturbing as the way

HIV burrows in for the long haul.

It has shifted the ultimate goal of AIDS treatment toward something less ambitious. Since eradicating HIV now seems so unlikely -- although not everyone has given up -- many contend the next best thing will be somehow training the body to control the virus, to help patients live with HIV instead of getting rid of it.

Many of the insights come from the work of Dr. Robert Siliciano of Johns Hopkins University, who regularly tests the blood of about 50 Baltimore AIDS patients, measuring the virus's persistence despite the best treatments.

HIV's long memory

"What HIV has done is tap into the most fundamental aspect of the immune system, and that is its immunological memory," he says. "It's the perfect mechanism for the virus to ensure its survival."

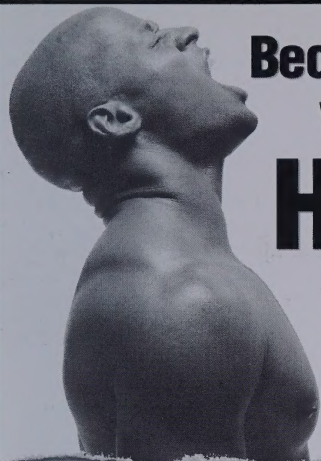
Perfect because the virus lies silent inside cells that are programmed to do nothing but sit and wait. They are called resting memory T cells. Their only job is to store a record of the germs they encounter, keeping the body prepared for the next time it sees them.

These cells literally are the immune system's memory, so they must survive for a long time. Otherwise we would catch the same diseases over and over. HIV lies inside these sleeping cells, dormant but dangerous. Siliciano believes this means HIV infection will last a lifetime.

The memory cells do die off, but ever so slowly. At the rate he sees in his Baltimore patients, it will take 73 years for them to go away completely. He cannot imagine a way to speed up the process, certainly not with the drugs now available or with anything else on the horizon.

This latently infected reservoir, as scientists call it, is the single biggest obstacle to getting rid of AIDS. "It's the thing that keeps us from curing this," says Dr. Roger Pomerantz of Thomas Jefferson University

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For a while, anything seemed possible

None of this was obvious in 1996, the dawn of the modern age of AIDS treatment. Doctors watched AIDS patients literally get up from their death beds after taking the newly available drug combinations. Anything seemed possible.

Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City cautiously speculated about eradicating HIV. If the drugs stopped the virus from infecting more blood cells, then the ones already loaded with virus would eventually die off naturally, leaving the body virus free. Perhaps this would take two or three years, he thought.

But in late 1997, another discovery made that seem unlikely. Siliciano and two other teams independently found the virus inside memory T cells. They checked people who had seemingly been free of virus for two years. Every time, they

found fully potent copies of virus inside their memory cells.

No one understood then how long these cells would stay alive, although it was assumed it would almost certainly be more than a couple of years.

"It was a sobering realization about the recalcitrant nature of this reservoir," remembers Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The next obvious approach was to try to destroy these Trojan horses.

Fauci's team tried to "flush out the reservoir," as they put it. The idea: Intermittently feed the body interleukin-2, a growth hormone that would make these dormant memory cells awaken and then die.

The experiment seemed to go well. Doctors biopsied patients' lymph nodes and found nothing. They grew hundreds of millions of their cells in cultures. Still nothing. Finally they stopped all treatment and

waited. Within three or four weeks, they had their answer. The virus came back in every single patient.

"We are not going to be eliminating this reservoir," Fauci now says. "Whether you can measure it or not doesn't seem to have a significant impact on the clinically relevant phenomenon of what happens when you stop the drug."

Nevertheless, scientists have learned much about how the virus hides. HIV's primary target in the body is a kind of white blood cell known as a cd4 T helper cell. The virus infects them, hijacks their machinery so they manufacture more virus, then kills them.

After they get infected, though, a few of these helper cells become memory cells. HIV has already stitched its genes into the cells' genetic code in preparation for making more virus. But nothing happens. The cells go to sleep, virus

Continues On Page 15

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All of this happens within the first days of an HIV infection, even before the body begins to make antibodies against the virus. The number of cells involved is relatively small, perhaps 1 million scattered through the blood stream, the lymph glands and perhaps elsewhere.

HIV replicated with each memory cell division

Normally, the body kills HIV-infected cells. But it misses these, because they look perfectly normal. "The only difference between a latently infected cell and its uninfected counterparts is a little bit of HIV DNA," says Siliciano.

This similarity also makes the infected cells almost impossible to kill with any kind of targeted drugs. There is simply no easy way to sort out the good from the bad.

Siliciano has been counting these cells in his Baltimore volunteers for five years. The number he finds in their bodies now "is essentially exactly the same as they started with."

Why do they die off so slowly, if at all? There are two leading theories: Their longevity reflects the basic biology of memory T cells, or their supply is constantly replenished.

Siliciano favors the first theory. Immunological memory lasts forever. This is why someone who catches measles in childhood will remain immune to the disease into old age.

Memory cells may die over time, but they also make replacements by cell division. And every time a memory cell divides, it faithfully reproduces the HIV that is stitched into its genes.

However, the Diamond Center's Ho prefers the second theory. Actually, memory cells are much shorter lived, he believes. But their supply is constantly being renewed by a continuing cycle of low-level infection.

The standard drug regimens -- what doctors call highly active antiretroviral therapy, or HAART -- can reduce viral levels by 10,000 fold. But perhaps they do not completely stop the virus from infecting fresh T cells. Some of these go on to become infected memory cells. Thus, however quickly these memory cells die, they

are replaced by more.

"If we could stop the residual replication, what would be the persistence of the reservoir?" Ho asks. His team has started a new experiment, code numbered 377, to find out.

A drug combo solution?

They have come up with a new four-drug combination, a kind of super-HAART, that they believe is more powerful than the standard variety. About 30 patients are taking the drugs. The goal is to stop the low-level circulation of their virus, which in turn should shut off the supply of newly infected memory cells.

If it works, Ho believes it could wipe out the body's HIV-infected memory T cells in three to four years.

"No one would say that once we get rid of this reservoir, we have a cure," says Ho. "We have confronted a difficult problem, but there may be others."

Among the biggest of these is the worry that infected memory T cells are not the body's only long-lived reservoir of HIV. The virus may linger as well in other places that are hard to check or lie beyond the reach of AIDS drugs, such as the brain, bone marrow and testes.

"It will be a daunting task to eliminate those unknown viral reservoirs, even with much more potent drugs that might come out in the near future," says Dr. Tae-Wook Chun of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

This is why Chun and many AIDS researchers now believe the best defense against HIV may ultimately be the body's own.

These doctors would like to teach the immune system to control HIV, so people can stop taking AIDS drugs, which have unpleasant and unhealthy side effects.

No one can say whether this is even possible. But they already can envision a strategy: Shut down viral replication with standard drugs. Then give vaccines and other boosters that will intensify the body's natural -- and up to now, failed -- surveillance against HIV.

In time, they say, the immune system might learn to do the entire job alone. But all of this is unproven theory, just like the idea of viral eradication was five years ago.

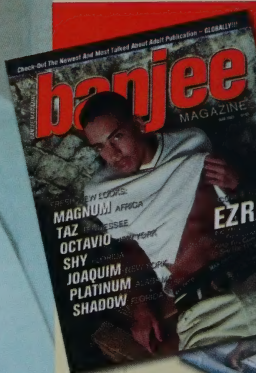




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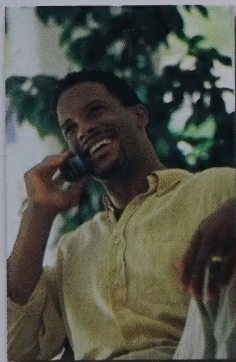


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The Next Level

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My mind is enhanced with beauty, common sense, and romance. Things in life that happen not by chance but through fate.

I have matured, because I have endured the tests and trials of life. That don't come one by one but in a large sum.

I'm going to the next level.

The things of old are exactly what I said, "Old"

For they have passed away.
I am new, I am new, behold I am new.
Not only born again as most Christians would say,
but elevated to a place that I will not stay.

I'm going to the next level.

TO THE POINT,
I did it, accomplished another goal to make my dream reality.

Settle down, I think not, for this is just another step towards where I want to be

THE NEXT LEVEL

The Song Plays On

□2001 By David J. Mangan, II

The words you sing, I have heard before. The melody of love I have heard to. I see the player taking the seat to give the same notes in a different style.

But everything is still the same my heart now filled with pain, to that note in your private concert.

You grace me with your new exclusive look and an attitude to conquer the world. Different you are and is what I am looking for. I am not to particular about the glamour of things, nothing

to that or even more. No your not the one for me for me to adore, your no more than the others.

But everything is still the same my heart now filled with pain, to that note in your private concert.

Again I sit and write with my pen, now in total anguish preparing myself for the worst. Looking to see those same notes float out of that same piano. I want something new and please let it be true. Something unique that will hit my interest peak. Making me say that the right melody and yea you have the right key. But now it's my turn again to wait and see.

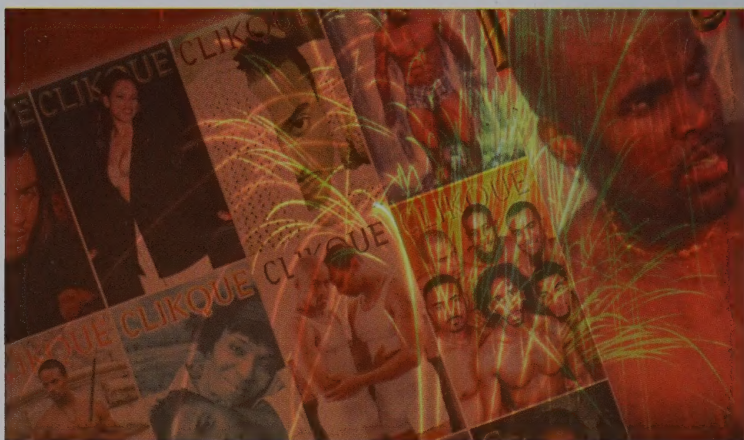


FOR BETTER FOR WORSE

A Bubble Gum Anniversary Reflection

Have you heard the news?? Have you visited the website?? Can you believe it?? Clikque Magazine has been in existence for 3 years now & STILL going strong !!! Who knew a GLBT/SGL magazine of color would become SO popular in only

tion to maintain and sustain an inevitable disappointing break up. Everyone knows that relationships are hard to develop because the two people really have to get to know and deal with the other persons "everything." Plus, no one has to do



thirty-six months & recommence and "live" to tell about it. To me, every issue surpasses the last issue in creativity by acquiring the reader's undivided attention consequently causing the reader to impatiently wait and want more. By far, this is truly a momentous and significant anniversary for this magazine.

When you think about it, occasions like THIS make supporting African American ventures worthwhile. Positive anniversaries to me express achievement for things "worked on". It just can't be said any other way. In a parallel sort of way, the subject of social relationships are a good representative example of anniversary achievements. One could say that they are paralleled in the sense that they take lots of hard work & dedica-

tion to realize that in order to celebrate an anniversary the two parties in question WILL have to work things out to be a successful couple. Allow me to explain.

It is in my opinion that most people in Gay World feel relationships are hard to endure because of reality jokes such as this one - Question: What do gay men do on the 2nd date? Answer: What 2nd date ??? (Smile). Sad to say, the way "dates" are statistically pruned, it is no wonder why most people seem to indulge in A-Z "activities" in one night which dominoes to the effect of nothing to look forward to on the next unprecedented date. Not everybody, but yes to most. Most people in the "straight" world feel that relationships are pointless & futile because their straight

partners aren't being "straight" with them. For example, they may want to marry or have children, but feel they still can sexually lead both lives with men and women. I guess their (straight)ness has segregated into a "crooked" path instead. To each its own, I guess. Keep in mind that this is NOT to say that relationships can not happen or will not work. By all means, please pay close attention.

The phrase "social relationship" has various meanings to many people. To some, social relationships are just a routinely romantic or sexual involvement union. They have flings of sex and that's all there is. To others, social relationships come in the form of possessions obtained from the other party as a bartering/exchanging tool. This form can go on as long as both parties continue to satisfy each other. Let's not even talk about Swingers and Prostitution. My definition of a social relationship is where 2 people who have a commitment or connection to each other mutually work hard to:

- * please, help & respect each other,
- * be fair and honest with each other,
- * accept each other as they really are,
- * keep one's individuality yet also become one with each other,
- * AND remain strong and supportive ALL while still learning each other for better, for worse.

In this equation, one can not forget to factor in compromising personal habits with the habits of their partners as well as being thoughtfully mental, yokefully spiritual, and equally chemical with one another. The missing KEY (that seems to disappear from disinterest of having IT found) to making

relationships work rests in the hands of the 2 parties involved.

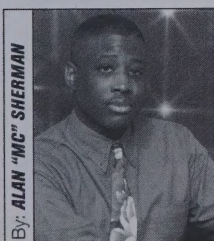
It is when and ONLY when both parties decide to really make a go of it that positive reinforcement can begin to take place. Both parties must be ON the same page IN the same section OF the same newspaper. One can not be in the LIFE section while the other is in the OBITUARIES. (True True True). It just will not work that way. But, then again, if it is meant to happen and both parties want it - IT WILL HAPPEN. I submit to you without a shadow of a doubt that the following situations of relationships CAN WORK:

- * Long Distance relationships.
- * Mixed Race relationships.
- * Huge Age Difference relationships.
- * Gay vs. Bisexual relationships.
- * Those in relationships that smoke vs. those that do not smoke.
- * Those into heavy sports activity vs. those not into sports AT ALL.
- * Those with automobiles vs. those without automobiles.
- * Those height & weight proportionate vs. those that are not, AND lastly
- * Those that club all night long vs. those that hardly go or decline to club.

The following advisement guidelines are examples of relationships that ultimately WON'T WORK and are void of any consideration of continuing the relationship:

- * Don't sleep with your significant others' friends. Don't be influenced by Ricki Lake.
- * Don't look at everything (with interest) that moves when in public. Just because you think your Bubble Gum is stale in a newly fresh pack doesn't mean you have to change brands of gum. Stick with your purchase & wait the time out. Chew another piece. Will

Continues On Page 63



By: ALAN "MC" SHERMAN

Alan "MC" Sherman, 29, resident of Atlanta, is a journalist & freelance writer. He started writing at the age of seven from which he wrote a series of little short stories & poems. He is the author of three editorial compositions published in Reader's Digest along with a impending essay in Essence Magazine. Being fascinated by words and their origins, Alan currently adds to his writing accolades, two poems published in The National Library of Poetry. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Journalism from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Alan can be reached at alansherman@clikque.com.



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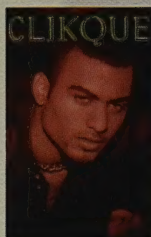
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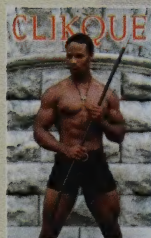
JUN 1998



JUL 1998



AUG/SEPT 1998



OCT 1998

It was an unusually hot day in Houston, for the end of April in 1998, when Clikque Magazine appeared on the scene. Ironically the hot weather may have been a foreshadowing of the very nature of Clikque as it would quickly rise to the top of the reading lists for African-American GLBT/SGL people. On this second anniversary we are proud to present the "mile stones" of Clikque as seen through the covers, people, and events that have brought Clikque to being the nation's #1 monthly publication for same gender loving people of African descent. From modest beginnings and a much smaller circulation, in Houston, to the ever expanding presence in the community, nationwide Clikque is now represented in nearly every market in the nation (with at least minimal distribution in every major city in America and several international destinations. Saturating the community, with a current circulation of over 25,000+, Clikque currently enjoys a growing subscription base that spans the globe and has been able to attract major sponsors including pharmaceutical companies, health organizations, pageantry systems, and some of America's hottest dance and party spots.

A magazine, "for him & for her," Clikque has been successful largely because of the persistence, stamina and dedication of its owner, Dwight Powell. Our extensive list of fine writers and artists who have committed their time and talent towards the magazine are also great forces for the quick success of Clikque Magazine. In return Clikque has and will continue to give back by exposing new and emerging artists; as well as, offering space for our greatest stars to showcase their works and wares. **Clikque's prominence is based on the fact that it offers a new fresh approach of highlighting the lives of African American members of the GLBT/SGL community with style, class, and fierce flare!**

Here's what happened milestone by milestone.

May 1998

A Star is born in Clikque Magazine as your complete news, information, and entertainment guide for African-American GLBT/SGL people



NOV 1998



DEC 1998



JAN 1999



FEB 1999



MAR 1999

Important Dates & Events In Our History

and the community that serves them. Clikque served as the Official Guide to Houston Splash '98 with Rande Rochelle featured as a legend in the making.

June 1998

Clikque living up to its motto "for him and for her" features its first female cover model, Kimla Mouton. Not only built for beauty but also an entrepreneur with her partner Shirley as co-owners of Club Extreme in Houston.

July 1998

Clikque continues its representation of the community by featuring the face of all faces Legendary Whitney Mugler from the House of Mugler. TRAXX becomes Atlanta's first major club to embrace Clikque magazine as a major advertiser and supporter.

August/Sept. 1998

■ Clikque explodes into the market of Black Prides. After covering several events this year Clikque serves as the Official Magazine for Atlanta's Black Gay Pride Celebration. The body and bulge, of George King is featured on the cover which is still recognized today as the Clikque's most demanded cover, to date.

■ Believing Clikque could better serve the entire community with contracts and opportunities in the "Black Gay Mecca" Clikque Magazine moves its home base to Atlanta operating out of the home of the publisher.

October 1998

Niesha Dupree- Legendary Mother of Atlanta is featured in Clikque along with the internationally known Champions

Models Calendar owner Lance, stands Guard as cover model.

November 1998

The Supreme Legend Pepper LaBeija, mother of the House of LaBeija is featured on the cover and offers insight into his life and the Ball world in the cover story.

December 1998

Clikque features three new faces of the month the very enticing Terrance MaGee, Stephanie Kellogg, and Monté St. James, the newly crowned Mr. Black Universe.

January 1999

Clikque features Stewart Ebony legendary mother of the House of Ebony.

February 1999

Clikque serves as the official magazine for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's convention held in Atlanta. Clikque cameras captured many of the nation's most prominent leaders. Gay and allies converged on the city of diversity to continue celebrating the strides many of our leaders have made in society. Clikque magazine was the only publication allowed to photograph Regina Belle's concert, which was the grand finale of the entire weekend.

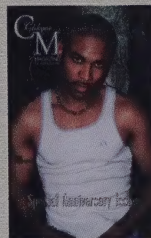
March 1999

The graceful, lovely, and inspirational Necole Luv Dupree join the cover model alumni as the first female impersonator to appear on the cover of Clikque. Necole in her own dramatic flare shocks the nation with her stark presentation and deft style...Fierce.

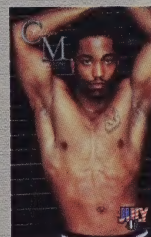
APRIL 1999



MAY 1999



JUN 1999



JUL 1999



AUG 1999





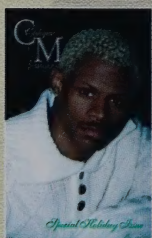
SEPT 1999



OCT 1999



NOV 1999



DEC 1999



JAN 2000

April 1999

Fresh with a new look Clikque continues to grow as the nations most widely sought after monthly publication for the Black Gay community. For the first time Clikque produces an 80 page spread.

■ Clikque features the stud model, FLEX, on the cover

• Clikque was on hand to capture "The Stars of the Century" as the world witnessed the birth of the nation's hottest entertainment show spectacle hosted by the hilarious Sophia McIntosh and the effervescent Dominique Rashad.

■ Clikque Magazine celebrates it's 1st year anniversary at Traxx which features recording legend Miki Howard as special guest performer.

May 1999

■ Clikque Magazine Owner and Publisher of Clikque Magazine is featured on the cover of the First Anniversary Issue.

■ The Anniversary issue unveils a 3 page fold out cover never before seen, and as yet not duplicated, by any other African American publication.

■ Clikque makes waves at Houston Splash '99 producing it's first anniversary pool party. Clikque's largest event was deemed a huge success.

• June 1999

The man and muscle of Maceo heat up the cover while the bodacious body of Allegra heats up the inside along with the Champion Connection featuring some of the most "phine" men and women to walk the runway in a fashion showcase.

• July 1999

Clikque hosts it's first prelim for Mr & Ms. Clikque America. Tijuanna Brooks becomes the first Ms. Clikque Houston.

August 1999

This issue was Clikque's most lucrative due to advertisements from sponsors and a special fold out ad created for TRAXX-Atlanta. Traxx's add mesmerized the nation as it advertised it's upcoming events and specials for September pride in Atlanta.

September 1999

Clikque presents it's most equally balanced issue featuring male and female interests throughout the pages of the most sought after publication in America.

October 1999

■ Tampa Jamz announced by Clikque. Slated for June 2000 LWilliam Cosby was selected as the first Tampa Jamz event model.

■ Clikque joins in the march for a cure as it becomes a big promoter of AIDS Walk Atlanta. Clikque organized a team of walkers and promoted the event through out the pages of Clikque.

■ Clikque also produced the most comprehensive AIDS report ever produced by an African American publication. Refusing to continue ignoring the impact of HIV/AIDS on the total African American community Clikque offers a unique perspective and report of the devastation of HIV/AIDS on women, children/youth, men, and families. Clikque's viewpoint included

Important Dates & Events In Our History

looking at the statistics within both the gay and heterosexual communities.

November 1999

■ Clikque moves into its first office space in the heart of Mid-town Atlanta.

■ Clikque produced its largest issue to date, featuring Nestor Zapata, Clikque's Business/Office Manager and Cover coordinator. This issue boasted 96 pages of information, news, and entertainment "for him & for her."

■ Clikque, along with the nation, said goodbye to the world renowned Loretta's Nightclub and welcomed its successor "The Sequel" to the scene, continuing to offer Atlanta's nightlife variety and spice.

December 1999

■ Moving from just a magazine that encourages support of organizations Clikque raised donations for the first time to support local AIDS service organizations.

■ Legendary Father of the House of Mizrahi, André Mizrahi featured on the cover.

January 2000

Clikque produced the first Mr. & Ms. Clikque America Pageant. Two star studded nights of competition saw the best and the brightest of the nations female impersonators and male entertainers grace the stages either as contestants or as entertainers. Preliminary night was held at the World Famous Traxx nightclub and finals were held at Georgia State University's Rialto Theatre.

■ Terryl-Lynn Foxx and Tim Bolhar were crowned as the first title holders with Sasha Valentino

and Damien Kelly as first runners up.

■ Chiron becomes the first pharmaceutical company to embrace Clikque Magazine with an advertising contract, through the help of Don Sneed, executive director of Renaissance III in Dallas.

February 2000

Clikque sells its first cover featuring the stars of the movie "Trois". Clikque offers exposure of the gay community to mainstream African-America while also offering our opinion of the first feature African American film in 2000 to delve in anyway into the arena of sexual diversity.

March 2000

Clikque makes what may now become an annual face lift as it promotes its current reigning King and Queen Mr and Ms. Clikque America 2000 on the cover.

• Clikque presents its launch party in New Orleans spear-headed by our reigning Queen Ms. Terryl-Lynn Foxx.

April 2000

Clikque hosts its anniversary parties in Atlanta at Fusion and Traxx. Clikque Hosts the "Marvines" art exhibit at the Martini Bar in Midtown Atlanta during its anniversary weekend.

May 2000

■ Clikque unleashed a 102 page anniversary issue featuring the magazine's owner Dwight Powell.

■ Clikque joined in the Houston Splash 2000 festivities by hosting its annual Anniversary Pool Party at Clikque's host hotel Sheraton-

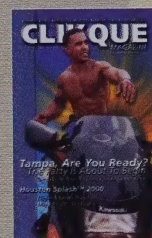
FEB2000



MAR2000



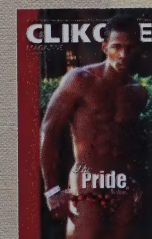
APRIL2000



MAY2000



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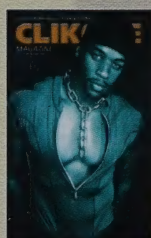




JULY/1999



AUG/1999



SEPT/OCT/1999



JAN/FEB/1999



MAR/2000

Brookhollow. While the crowd laughed at the antics of Sophia McIntosh who was joined by Clikque staff and Ms. Clikque America 2000, Teryl-Lynn Foxx. As promised Clikque offered it's guests a great smattering of fun, food, and the fabulous as men and women struck up conversations and made connections.

June 2000

■ Clikque presented its Tampa Jamz 2000 festivities in Tampa, Florida, June 9-11. As promised Clikque offered it's guests great fun in the sun. With guests from around the country and the world Tampa was on fire with our light as we lit up the Tampa skyline with our own flare of excitement.

Our guests were welcomed at our meet and greet reception where we struck up conversations and made connections. Then we traveled over to the Factory/Garage where our fabulous folk danced the night away with two fun filled rooms of house, hip-hop and dance tracks.

On Saturday we found our spot in the sun at the Ft. DeSoto Beach, Clikque gave away subscriptions, trips to next year's Splash and this year's Labor Day activities in our home Hotlanta, along with other cash and prizes including feature model search, body contests, and the wet speedo contest. Of course we tapped off the night with a great Citrus Twist event co-sponsored by Smirnoff where we gave away free samples of Citrus Twist drinks and we danced into oblivion at Club Atlanta.

On Sunday we joined the crowds and braved intermittent

douses of rain as we took on the adventures at Busch Gardens.

■ Mid America enjoyed its 5th annual BGP in the historic city of Memphis, TN. Home of Beale Street, the Lorraine Motel/National Civil Rights Museum, and all the BBQ and Blues you can take along the Mississippi River. The owners and management of Club N-Cognito again presented the rip roaring, hee-haw, rodeo adventure west of the Mississippi.

With some of the greatest in female impersonation, male dancers, and "glowing" female dancers the surprises and adventures were non-stop all weekend. Clikque teamed up with N-Cognito and presented the annual pool party, a local favorite. We were joined by the men and flesh of Fellas Magazine, adding a bit of hot sauce for your tastes. The legendary Tommie Ross, a national treasure and icon joined in the festivities as well.

July 2000

After signing on earlier in the year as a major sponsor of the Chicago Black Pride, the magazine made its presence felt at the various pride events in a huge way. Presentation was everything. For the first time, folks in the Windy City got a chance to mingle with the movers and shakers of one of America's most informative and entertaining SGL publications... Clikque.

August 2000

■ The Labor Day Issues has always been one of the more lucrative issues for the magazine and, this years was no exception. Readers were treated to a 102 stunning issue with included a 6

page foldout from the cover. The cover was said by many to be the most inclusive SGL cover ever offered by Klikque.

September 2000

The publisher of Klikque Magazine announced that he would be offering another publication for our SGL community. The magazine would be Banjee Magazine, an all male nude publication that would compete with Black Inches.

October 2000

■ The magazine takes a short break from publishing Klikque to focus attention on their new venture Banjee.

■ The decision to temporarily stop publishing Klikque was welcomed by harsh criticism from Klikque's supporters and advertisers. However, the decision was short-lived after Banjee was unleashed in January of 2001.

■ Today both magazines are managing to co-exist with major problems. The publishers decision proved to be a lucrative one; the first issue of Banjee sold-out and orders for the second issued doubled.

January 2001

■ Klikque offered its first issue since October of 2000. The cover featured R&B artist Monifah.

■ Atlanta witnessed the crowning of the second Miss Klikque America. Among names such as Necole Luv Dupree and Jasmine Bonet, Memphis' own Tenisha Casadine walked away with the crown. Congrats to our new Miss Klikque America 2001. Klikque pageantry organizers again proved that they will continue to present an honest and

fair system...

• February 2001

■ Klikque Magazine signs on as a major sponsor of the Black Winter Explosion held in New York.

■ Klikque Magazine was the proud recipient of the Lorde-Beam Literary Award — Best Same Gender Loving Publication of 2000. The award was presented to the magazine at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum conference held in Oakland California, by Bookhousecafe.com

■ Magazine struggles to stay in business after a few major financial setbacks. Huge drops in advertisement sales was a major factor for the financial setbacks.

March 2001

■ Keeping up with the time and artist styles of the day, Klikque gives its cover a face-lift.

■ This month's cover featured the beautiful and talented Stasha Sanchez. Miss Stasha became the third female impersonator to grace the cover of Klikque Magazine. Necole Luv Dupree and Teryl-Lynn Foxx were the first and second.

■ Magazine offered one of the strongest editorial issues ever produced by Klikque Magazine.

April 2001

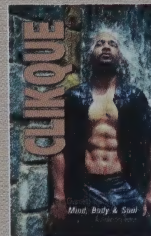
■ Magazine begins to win back the support of readership and advertisers as it gets back on track with its offering of the Nation's only monthly SGL publication for people of color.

■ Magazine features one of the sexiest covers ever shot for Klikque Magazine.

APR2001



MAY2001



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every year.*

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Cleansing The Mind

By Dwight Powell, Publisher
Clique Magazine



I am sure that most of you have heard the cliché, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste". Now, have you every asked yourself, how does one "waste" their minds? Is the mind "wasted" when it's not utilized constructively? Is it "wasted" when consumed by toxins such as alcohol and drugs? Is it "wasted" when rarely it's encouraged to analyze other points of views. Is it "wasted" when not allowed to take-on new, challenging experiences? Or is the mind "wasted" when not encouraged to express, show and feel love.

Frankly, I would have to suggest that all of the above are some of the ways that we tend to "waste" our minds, and ultimately ourselves.

As we get older (not necessarily grow older) we tend to become complacent. Moreover, we tend to be more "set in our ways", as it pertains to our actions and the ways in which we think. What do think might happen if you allowed yourself to go beyond the norm, the expected, and the typical you. Well, until you rid yourself of that mundane routine; until you open your mind to new ideas, thoughts, and experiences, well, you'll never know.

I'm not suggesting that you go out and become an entirely different person. Merely, I'm suggesting that you allow your mind to take-in new ideas, evaluate them and then react or not act. The fact that the ideas were considered and evaluated was in my opinion sufficient.

Now a little cleansing thought for you mind. Your thoughts have a direct relationship with the way that you feel. Try being stressed out without first having stressful thoughts – or angry without first have angry thoughts – jealous without thoughts of jealousy. You can't do it. Unhappiness doesn't and can't exist on its own. Unhappiness is the feeling that accompanies negative thinking about your life. In the absence of that thinking, the unhappiness, or stress, or jealousy can't exist. So the next time that you're upset, notice your thinking. This realization allows you go about your day with ease. – Mind over matter.





LOS ANGELES BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE PRESENTS

Black Beach and Midnight Sun

Since 1988, Shorey, Inc., At The Beach (ATB) have hosted an Annual Beach and Unity Celebration at Point Dume Beach in Malibu, California. This annual event takes place during the 4th of July weekend. It is a weekend filled with networking forums to increase awareness in social, health and economic development. We celebrate pride and diversity in our community.

In November of 2000 ATB reorganized as the official At The Beach Los Angeles Black Gay Pride, a 501(c) 3 not for profit organization. We are extremely excited about this new chapter in our history and the benefit it will bring to the entire local, national and international African American Lesbian and Gay community.

Weekend Schedule:

June 28th (Thursday)

Conference Series

"Opportunity - Self Empowerment"

@ Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel - 9 AM

June 29th (Friday)

Welcome Reception - "Total Eclipse"

@ Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel 6 PM

June 30th (Saturday)

Beach Party "Black's Beach"

@ Point DUME in Malibu California - 7 AM to Dusk.

After Parties

Men are from Venus, Women are from Mars

@ Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel - 10:00 PM to 4 PM

July 1st (Sunday)

Barbecue "Meteor" We promise more meat.

@ Culver Studio -

336 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA.

1:00 PM to 8:00 PM

July 2nd (Monday)

Literary Cafe

"Literary Cafe Stars" @ Lucy Florence Cafe 6 PM

July 3rd (Tuesday)

Film Festival - "Fade to Black"

@ Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel Time TBA

The weekend passport is \$65 before June 15, 2001 and \$75 after June 15. The passport will allow you into all ATB sponsored events and the VIP Lounge along with receiving this years official T-shirt. It has a value of \$100.

To reserve your weekend pass make check payable to At The Beach. Mail to:

At The Beach

3765 Motor Ave. #126

Los Angeles, CA 90034

Your pass will be held for you at ATB's reception desk starting June 28th.

The theme for the 13th Annual Unity Celebration is Black's Beach and the Midnight Sun. Festivities begin June 28th through July 4th.

American Airlines @ (800) 433 1790 is the official airline for the beach party. CODE A3861BG.

Avis Car Rental @ (800) 331 1600 is the official car rental company. CODE J097330.

Remember to reserve you hotel space by calling the Los Angeles Airport Hilton. Their telephone number is 310 410 4000. Ask for the \$80 per night ATB rate.

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: ATB LA@AOL.COM

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FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: ATB LA@AOL.COM

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Cleansing The Soul

By Karen Clark-Sheard
From her album Finally Karen Clark-Sheard



I would go on throughout my day - I thought I was okay
But I really didn't have commitment

I was prestige in many eyes
They didn't see me cry
I really could hide my torment

Though it seemed I was fine
It continued all the time
I'm only human and the pressure is getting to me

I just can't take it no more
My strength has walked out the door
And it left me and told me
I can't go no more

I just can't take it no more
I just want to lay down and die
God if you hear me - come near me
You're my only hope

I wish I had another chance -
I would fervently seek you hand
I would've survived the avalanche
I didn't see the road to take so
I gave my life away
Now there's no way I can pray from a grave

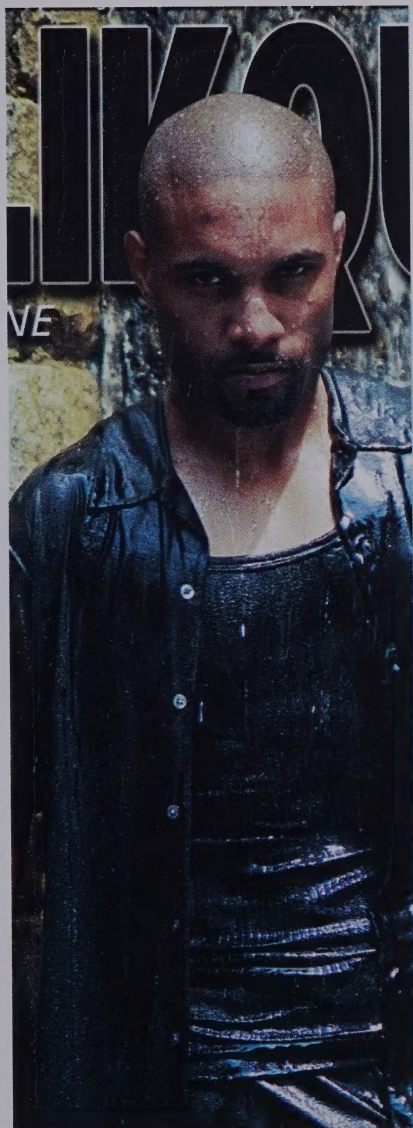
Though it seemed I was fine
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I just can't take it no more
My strength has walked out the door
And it left me and told me
I can't go no more

You've got to take a little more
Your strength has walked out the door
And it left you and told you
it can't go no more

You've got to take a little more
you might want to lay down and die
just know that God hears you - He's near you
He's your only hope

Listen to me - You can do all things if you
turn to the one who's made you
You've got to Talk A Little More





Who

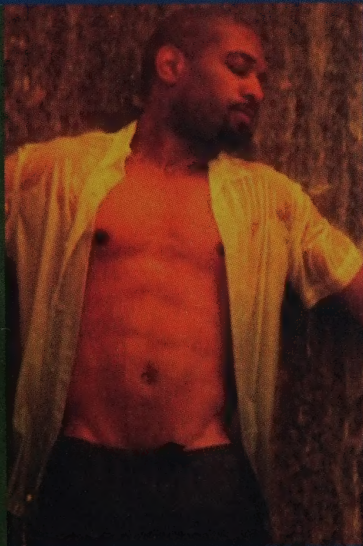
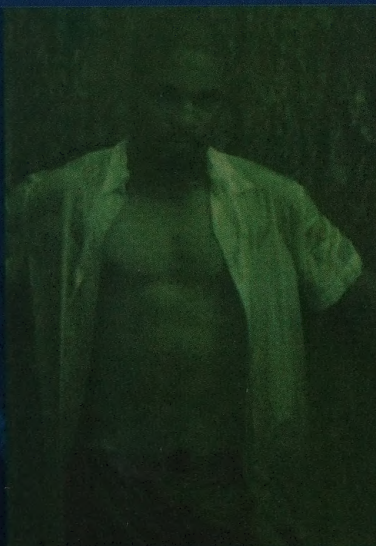
Is Dwight S. Powell?

During the past 3 years, photo and editorials by Dwight Powell, Owner of Klikque Magazine, have been featured in this publication on several occasions. He's often presented his thoughts and ideas, but never himself. With this being our 3rd year anniversary issue, we thought that it is now time that you learn a little more about the person that has been hard at work for you.

Birthplace:.....Nassau, Bahamas
Day of Birth: 2nd February, 1970
Education:.....Florida State University
Favorite Magazine: CODE Magazine
Favorite City To Visit: South Beach, Fl.
Favorite Ice Cream: Blue Bell Cookies & Cream
Favorite Cuisine:.....Thai
Favorite Color: Black
Admires Most: Late Aunt - Peggy
Favorite Actor: Harrison Ford
Favorite R&B Artist: Regina Belle
Favorite Labels: DKNY, AIX, AF
Favorite TV Program: OZ (HBO)

Upon meeting Mr. Powell for the first time, most are surprised to find that he stands-in at only 5'7", 150 pounds - He appears much taller and bigger on print. There is much that one can say about Mr. Powell. As with most artists and creative people, Mr. Powell admits that he's a perfectionist. A trait he now looks at as a flaw, since he's rarely satisfied with his work... Work that many deems exceptional. Representing Black gays around the world in an extremely positive way via Klikque Magazine, like Stanley Bennett Clay (SBC) and Charlene Cothran (Venus Magazine), Mr Powell continues to dedicated his existence towards the growth, betterment and uplifting of our SGL community of color.

After moving to Atlanta from Houston in the Summer of 1998, Mr. Powell took on Klikque Magazine as his only full(fun)-time career. This was done in an attempt to continue rendering a voice and venue for discussion and information to our SGL communities.



Photos By Jerry Boles



DC Black Pride EXPO 2001

Washington, DC

Black Pride is a major 4-day event during Memorial Day weekend in Washington, DC, which attracts more than 10,000 Black Lesbians and Gay men from around the country and the world.

Organized in 1991 as a one-day event, Black Pride is now the largest Black Gay & Lesbian Festival in the world attracting attendees from every major urban area in the U.S. as well as participants from Canada, England, Germany and the Netherlands.

Black Pride is coordinated by Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD)

The Black Pride annual operation budget comes primarily from individual donations, community fundraisers, fees associated with vending and advertising around the Memorial Day weekend events, and sales of tickets for those events. In 1997, BLGPD began soliciting institutional and corporate sponsors. In 1998, Black Pride sold out its host hotel, added an official travel agency, and web site and began a quarterly newsletter. Also in 1998 Black Pride received commendation from the White House, the Mayor's office and the Washington, DC City Council.

The Mission of BLGPD is to build aware-



a non-profit organization consisting of a volunteer Executive Board. The BLGPD Executive Board meets regularly to design and implement policy related to Black Pride activities, to organize fundraisers on behalf of the Black Pride and to build awareness of the Black Pride weekend. BLGPD has an office located within the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in Washington, DC.

ness of and pride in the diversity of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community as well as to create a funding source and support for organizations that are addressing HIV/AIDS and other health issues adversely affecting our community. Proceeds from Black Pride events are distributed to HIV/AIDS and other health service organizations serving the African American community in the Washington, Dc area.

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MAY 24-27

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2001

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Black Pride Expo

Information Provided Courtesy Of Clikque Magazine
America's Leading Source For Black Gay Pride Information
THE OFFICIAL BLACK PRIDE PARTY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MAY 24TH

The Hospitality Suite

6 PM to 8 PM @ The Renaissance Hotel
The Hospitality Suite will be open for early arrivals to pick up VIP and Party Passes, Black Pride EXPO tickets, Talent Show sign up and tickets Black Pride sponsors information, maps of Washington, DC, official Black Pride T-shirts and magazines, etc

FRIDAY MAY 25TH

Meet and Greet

6:00 PM to 8 PM @ The Renaissance Hotel
Wine and cheese reception at the host hotel with local elected officials and dignitaries socializing with Black LGBTs from around the nation. This event is free to VIP Pass holders, \$10 for non VIP Pass holders.

Midnight Cruise

11:30 PM to 2:30 PM

There is only a limited amount of individual Midnight Cruise tickets available. The Midnight Cruise tickets can also be purchased as part of the VIP package. Transportation will be available to the Midnight Cruise from the Renaissance Hotel starting at 10:30 PM. There will also be transportation back to the Renaissance Hotel at the conclusion of the Midnight Cruise. Transportation is free for VIP pass holders and \$10 R/T for non-VIP pass holders.

SATURDAY MAY 26TH

BRUNCH @ The Renaissance Hotel

11 AM - 2 PM \$25.00

The popular Black Pride Brunch will include juices, breads, tradition breakfast and brunch items (e.g. pasta salads) as well as vegetarian selections. VIP pass holders may select either a Saturday brunch or Sunday brunch as part of the VIP Pass package.

WORKSHOPS @ The Renaissance Hotel

10 AM - 4 PM Free

Black Pride has once again planned a series of workshops and discussion groups on relevant issues for members of the Black LGBT community. The workshops will include issues of LGBT youth, men's, transgender and women's discussion groups, financial planning, the International Federation of Black Prides annual meetings, etc. Watch this web-site for updated information and times.

The Hospitality Suite

12 PM to 8 PM @ The Renaissance Hotel

The Hospitality Suite will be open for those who wish to pick up VIP and Party Passes, Black

Pride EXPO tickets, Talent Show sign up and tickets Black Pride sponsors information, maps of Washington, DC, official Black Pride T-shirts and magazines, sign up for the Talent Show, volunteers, etc.

TALENT SHOW/DANCE

@ The Renaissance Hotel

8 PM - 1AM \$10

Black Pride will host our first Talent Show/Dance which will give Black LGBT Entertainers the opportunity to showcase their talents during DC Black Pride Weekend. All singers, poets, comedians, musicians interested in performing must sign up in person at the Hospitality Suite on Thursday, Friday or before 2 PM on Saturday. First prize will be two round trip United Airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States. The Talent Show will start at 8:30 PM and will end at 10:00 PM followed by dancing until 1 AM.

SUNDAY MAY 27TH

INTERFAITH SERVICE

The Renaissance Hotel 8 AM - 10 AM - Free
This event has become one of the highpoints of the DC Black Pride weekend. Churches that minister to our community in Washington, DC come together for song, worship and praise.

Hospitality Suite 10 AM to 12 PM @ The Renaissance Hotel

The Hospitality Suite will be open for those wishing to pick up, Black Pride EXPO tickets, Black Pride sponsors information, maps of Washington, DC, official Black Pride T-shirts and magazines, etc.

BRUNCH @ The Renaissance Hotel

11 AM - 2 PM \$25.00

The popular Black Pride Brunch will include juices, breads, tradition breakfast and brunch items (e.g. pasta salads) as well as vegetarian selections. VIP pass holders may select either a Saturday brunch or Sunday brunch as part of the VIP Pass package.

BLACK PRIDE EXPO @ WASHINGTON CONVENTION CTR.

(directly across the street from the Renaissance Hotel) 12 PM - 6 PM \$10 (free for VIP Pass holders)

The new and improved BLACK PRIDE EXPO will be the place to be seen in DC during Black Pride weekend. There will over 100 vendors, the Us Helping Us dance party (the entertainment will be in a separate room this year), the STAGE with entertainment and a special headliner, and thousands men and women.

DC

PRIDE 2001
MAY 24-27



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* \$109.00 per night

(Call - May Change after May 1st)

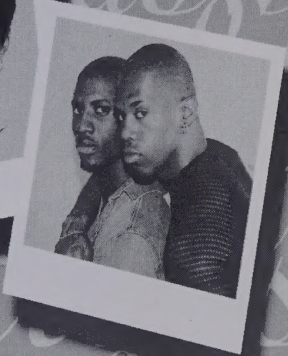
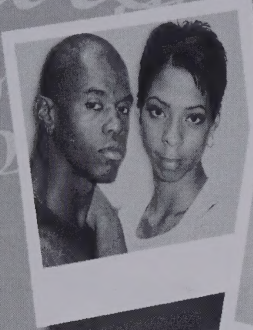
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PRIDE 2001
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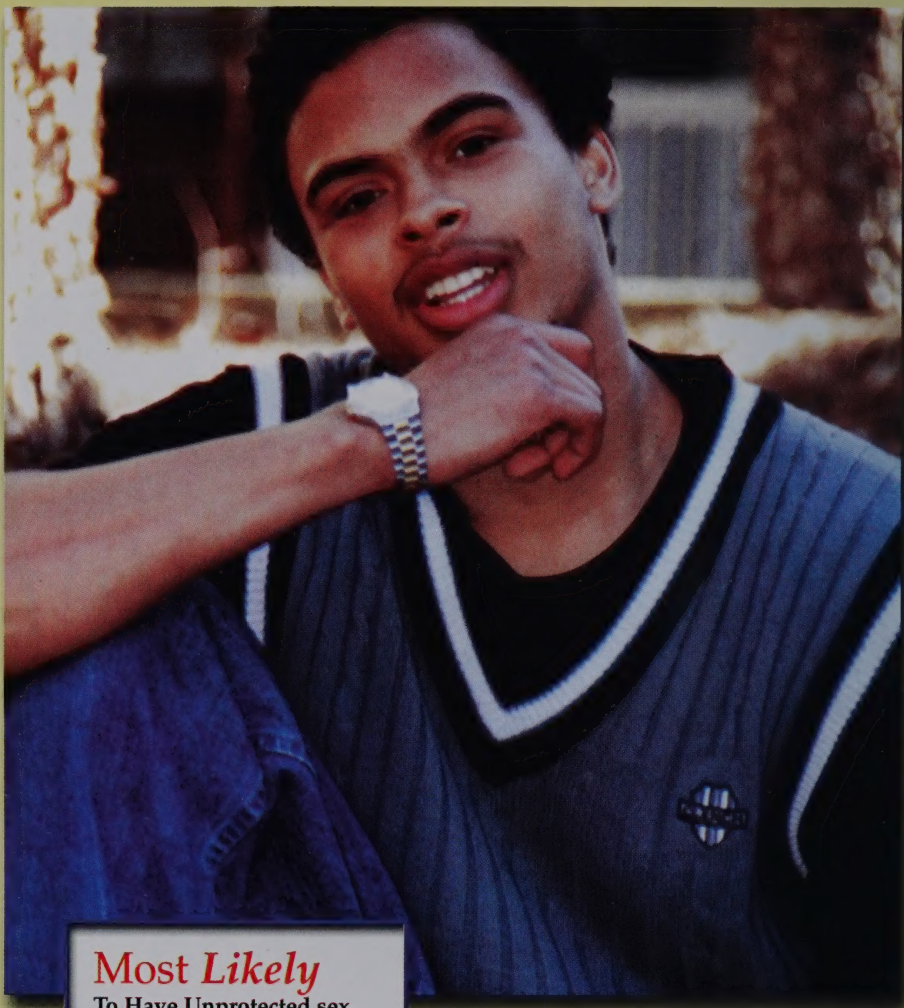
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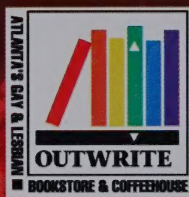


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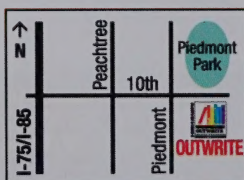
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GET WITH THE PROGRAM

Spring is Here and Summer is right around the Corner

Is your Body ready for the Test?

Every year so many of us make resolutions pertaining to getting back into the gym or losing weight and half into the program we become disenchanted with the gym or the exercise regiment. Here are ten sure ways to stay with the program and reaching your goals.

1. Make working out a Necessity

-You need to decide that working out is as important as anything is in your life and the results can be phenomenal. Write your workout time into your schedule and stick to it, just as you would a vital business meeting or a potential love interest.

2. Keep it simple

-Choose a gym you can get to in a reasonable amount of time. Motivation is also an key, choosing a gym were is not cosmetic were people are really working out, sweating and you can literal see results is also essential in staying with the program.

3. Don't bite off more than you can chew - We often start off too aggressive, going to a level that's higher than we're capable of achieving. Start off slow if you are not accustom to working out on a continuously regiment.

4. Set Realistic Achievable goals - For example trying to lose 20 pounds in one week maybe obtainable



*If Your Have Questions Or Comments,
Write Me, Mykle Here @ Clikque*

but the results is that it will return and probably double. Try to make goals that are realistic, losing 5 pounds in 1-2 is realistic, building muscle mass in a set time is obtainable as well.

5. Chart your progress

-Gains from one workout to the next can be subtle, and the only way to know how well you're really doing is to write everything down. Keep a journal of your workouts, as well as what you eat. Even the extreme fanatics are diligent when it comes keeping up with their level of progress

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6. **Go one on one** - One reason working out can seem less enjoyable than playing sports is that it can lack interplay with others. Finding a true workout partner is half the battle. Having a spotter is very important, that person can push you harder and lifting heavier as well as preventing you from injuring yourself. Sharing the same regimen can be extremely helpful when reaching similar goals.

7. **Hang in there** - Nothing sustains motivation better than results. Whether you're a beginner or a competitive bodybuilder, your muscles must be given enough time to adapt to the growth and the recovery periods that resistance training requires.

8. **Miss a Workout, Re-motivate yourself** - Missing one workout is not a crime, but continuing to miss more than one can be fatal. Remember if you miss a workout is gone, it's over. It's important to get back on track. Remember that your goals are in terms of health, appearance and the sports performance.

9. **Relax and Feel Better** - Regular exercise is a true stress release for all ages. It will relieve tension and reduce stress in some incidences. Also you may see some results like increase in strength, however a noticeable change in your physique can take up to three months.

10. **Overall Importance/Personal Trainer** - Workouts are more effective and may seem easier with a professional prodding you on. You will feel more obligated to show up and stick with your regimen especially if you're paying someone to work your body into shape. If you can't afford to hire a trainer for every workout, just do it every couple of weeks and have him or her set goals for you to reach in between.

Questions pertaining to Weight Loss, Building Muscle Mass, Increasing Cardiovascular, TaeBo, Body Building, Supplements, Fat Burners

LIFE, YOUR

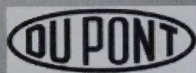
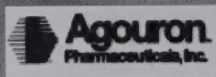
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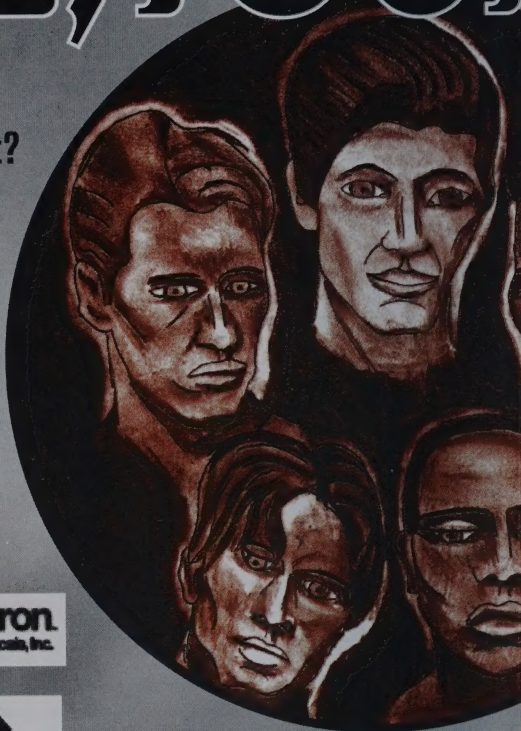
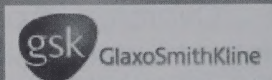
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Chicago WLWV FM 88.7 *Sunday, June 17 at 6:00 pm &
Tuesday, June 19 at 9:30 am*

Chicago WKQX-FM 101.1 *Sunday, June 17 at Midnight*

Detroit WPLT-FM 96.3 *Sunday, June 24 at 6:00 am*

Dallas KGGR 1040 AM *Saturday June 23 at 9:00 am*

Los Angeles KBIG-FM 104 *Sunday June 24 at 6:30 am*

Los Angeles KHPY 1530 AM *Tuesday, June 26 at 10:30*

Los Angeles KPRO 1570 AM *Monday-Friday at 1:00 am*

Memphis WWUN-FM 101.5 *Saturday, June 23 at 8:00 am*

New Orleans WLNO 1060 AM *Saturday, June 23 at 10:30 am*

New York WWRL 1600 AM *Monday, June 25 at 2:00 pm*

Philadelphia WEJM-FM 95.7 *Sunday, June 24 at 10:00 pm*

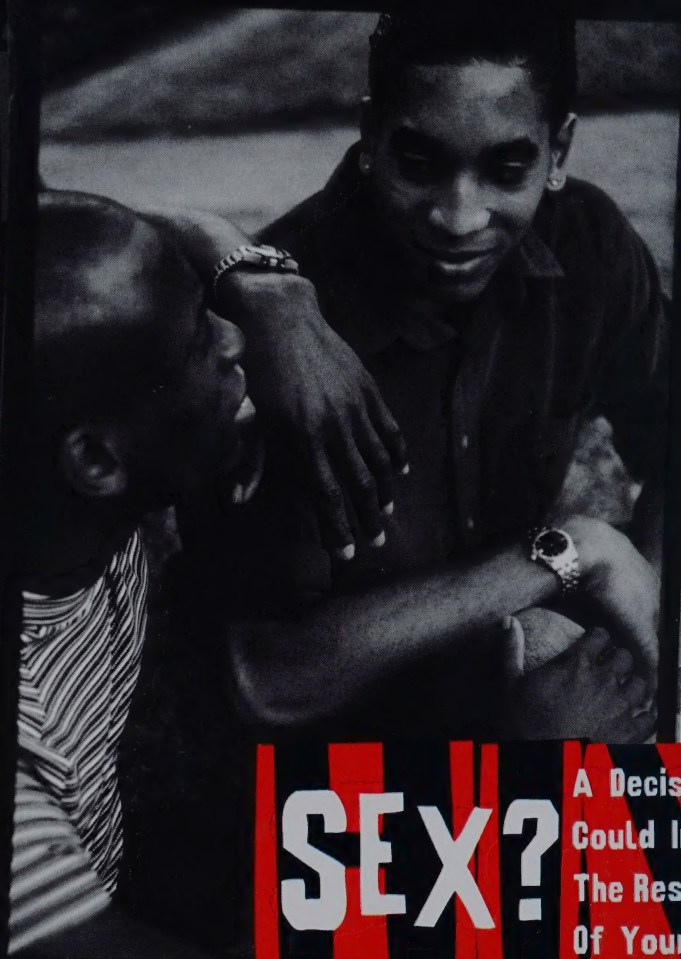
San Francisco KBZS 1220 AM *Sunday, June 24 at 5:00 pm*

San Jose KSJX 1500 AM *Saturday, June 23 at 7:30 pm*

Washington, DC WBIS 1190 AM *Saturday, June 23 at 5:00 pm*

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SHE OR ME???



"Friendgirls" are the best people in the world. By definition, they are the female friends that gay guys love going to movies with, converse with, grocery shop, mall shop, and dining out at restaurants just to name a few from the long list. They are very good to talk to on the subject of men - good & bad, cute & ugly, phyne & just okay, faithful and unfaithful, and straight & gay, etc. For the most part, friendgirls are usually straight in sexual preference and are mostly inquisitive in knowing how a guy can please another guy. Simply stated, they have their dating men, boyfriends, or husband while the gay guy has his as well. Unlike some gay-to-gay male friend relationships, trifleness of stealing the other person's mate is utterly ridiculous and unnecessary time consumption if the friendship is genuine. The only problem that I have experienced with a friendgirl relating to men is the following actual experience. This is definitely something that needs to be discussed because it truly stands out and causes disappointing conflicts. What do you think? Read on

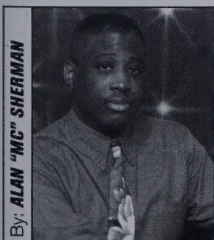
Last Monday, one of my friendgirls (who I will name AJ) and I decided to dine for lunch at Red Lobster. We parked, walked in, & waited for our turn to be seated. After being seated for about 15 minutes & having had a chance to study the menu letter-by-letter, we were finally greeted by our waiter who took our drink orders. As the waiter walked off, AJ & I could not help ourselves looking at this "phyne" man walk away.

His uniform was not wearing him "butttt" just the opposite. Although an apron is worn as part of his uniform, an extensive third leg could vividly be seen trying to grasp some air. "Oh, say can you see", I said to myself.

When our drinks were brought, we both noticed that he smelled great, had a terrific smile and seemed to be very professional. AJ & I constantly looked at each other in awe as he stood before us BUT there was something strange about him.

At first, when AJ ordered, the situation was normal as the waiter wrote down what she wanted. It was not until I ordered that she & I watched the waiter come very close to me and lean forward as if he could barely hear me. It was cute, though. He walked away. We watched him as he prepared to take the next table's order. He emulated the same advance with another gentleman — this time in a different ear. We thought maybe he had a hearing problem. He would just quickly take down the female's order but seemingly pay close attention to the male's order. How interesting we thought to ourselves. AJ began to get annoyed because it took such a long time for the food to arrive. I kidded with her exclaiming that she was just jealous that he wanted me & not her. It was interesting that she said this because the next few moments would really turn bizarre. The waiter arrived only with AJ's food, which took longer to prepare since I was only having an appetizer. He also brought her a refill to which he didn't notice my ice tea glass was AS EMPTY as well but it received no

Continues On Page 63



By: ALAN "MC" SHERMAN

Alan "MC" Sherman, 29, resident of Atlanta, is a journalist & freelance writer. He started writing at the age of seven from which he wrote a series of little short stories & poems. He is the author of three editorial compositions published in Reader's Digest along with a impending essay in Essence Magazine. Being fascinated by words and their origins, Alan currently adds to his writing accolades, two poems published in The National Library of Poetry. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Journalism from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Alan can be reached at alansherman@clikque.com.

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attention. He seemed to pay more attention to her as he complimented her in certain inconspicuous ways. With the attention now being focused on AJ, now we did not know what to think. AJ excused herself as she went to the bathroom. I immediately snickered to myself. My food (thank God) was then brought to the table. The waiter looks around not seeing my friend & decides to create small talk. He talks about sports, then quickly changes it to going out. He makes mention that he had just moved here & did not really know where to hang out.

Feeling him to where I think & had hoped the conversation was going, I respond by telling him that it depends on what "type" of club he wanted to attend. Smiling now uncontrollably with eyebrows raised & lowered in agreement, he begins to respond back unbeknownst to me that AJ is in the distant returning to the table. He reminds me that my "lady friend" is coming and says that we will definitely talk more on the "downlow", but later. I give my consenting masculine nod. I confide in my friendgirl by keeping her posted in what was said while she was gone. We both agree that the pendulum was now in my direction. At the end of our meal, AJ asked for the check to which he replied, "anything for the beautiful lady"! She & I both wondered how he & I was suppose to speak later if it was going to be on the down low without blowing his cover. We figured it would work itself out before we left because other than him walking around the restaurant simultaneously smiling at both of us separately, we still did not know which one of us he wanted. Very quickly, I decided something after the bill was paid. In front of the waiter, I told AJ that I now had to go to the bathroom and would meet her at the car. I figured this would give him a chance to come in & talk further should his signals were read correctly or not. I walked away from the table leaving both of them there, went to the bathroom & washed my hands. I

waited there for at least 10 minutes. No one came in. "Oh well," I thought to myself as I exited the bathroom, looked around and headed to the car. It was not until I got into the car when AJ stated she had been talking to the waiter while I was in the bathroom. She showed me a carton with some dessert in it that he had given her on the house because she was "so beautiful" & stated that they talked about his asking her where to go out as well.

It was not until she told me that he spent more time complimenting her nail polish that really made us wonder what his preference was. A stereotype nonetheless, but it made us wonder.

I sometimes wonder how often this happens to people. One goes out with friends or a lover & everybody seems to want to cling to you, but when you are by yourself or without a lover situation - not even waiters will stop to offer conversation. Friendgirls sometime make it difficult for would-be interested men to approach when they truly do not know the situation at hand. Sad to say - it sometimes does not matter which gender is around. If the interested man sees a woman his approach is suppressed because of the uncertainty of the male's sexuality. If the interested man sees a man his approach may be more inviting, but there is a concern.

The concern is who wants to situate himself to the point of starting a scene should the male person in question is in fact his lover or just another straight person who may not even know your sexuality. Decisions, decisions, decisions !! This incident that AJ & I experienced really made us enjoy having lunch together. Who knew that we would be waited on by a gorgeous hunk of a man then seemingly flirted with separately in public and at Red Lobster of all places. I guess, all in all, we will never know who would have been the REAL catch of the day. Simply, would it have been —> She OR Me? You be the judge!! (AMCS)



AROUND ATLANTA

with Jerry Boles'

Hello once again from Atlanta! Well, the weather is clearing up and Atlanta is becoming the name it's known for "**HotAtlanta.**" Hotlanta is Hot with phyne boyz and yes, phyne women! They both have it going on in the South. I have some interesting topics and club ratings to discuss along with some of the best places to eat, shop and of course to meet or just be in the company of some hot Black Men. We will also get Up close and Personal with **Dwight Powell of Clikque & Banjee Magazines.** So get your coffee or print this article and sit back during your spare time and enjoy the news from the **Dirty South.**

Still leading the pack as the best place to party in the South is **The Palace** on Sundays. Free before 7:00 P.M. The kids really pack in before 7:00 P.M. (Kids is another word for SGLP not to be misconstrued as children). The Palace still gets the Southern Mint Julep 10 Rating as the number one spot to visit while in the ATL. The music is phat with Hip-hop on the top and House in the middle and Reggae in the basement. I always get a least a half hour on each floor with most of my time at the Hip-Hop Floor.

Before checking-out the Palace, you must check out the **Legendary TRAXX** nightclub on Saturdays where the kids let you have it. TRAXX on Saturdays offers three floors, wall to wall men and music that will definitely rejuvenate your mind, body and soul. A perfect 10 is in order. Mondays see the Stars of the Century. Tuesdays is Hip-Hop night and the ladies got the joint on Fridays. The call it the **BARCODE**

Club Colours in Midtown on Fridays socks it for their music, drinks, and clientele. The men here are exciting, wonderful and yes, very attractive. Club Colours is hot on Fridays if you can get past the long wait in line (up to 30 minutes). If you would rather



not deal with the line and must experience it, then I recommend you try them on Saturdays. No line but a very cute crowd. Club Colours features two types of music on one floor. Hip-hop and House. Club Colours is still leading on Fridays with a 10 Rating and the best place to visit on Friday night.

Bulldogs on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday get in for its nice and warm atmosphere. This is the "When you need a date or looking for that special someone" spot. Bulldogs gets a Barking 8 Rating and is a great spot to visit before you're really ready get your visit in Atlanta going on.

The Sequel (formerly Loretta's) is back. On Tuesdays, admission is free and, according to a source, it is the new Friday spot for getting crunched up. As with the Box, this is a "wait and see." No rating yet... stay tuned.

Speaking of the "**Box**" or now, "**Chocolate**" or what-ever this club's current name (I have no idea) Our understanding and the word from around town is that "yes" they have changed their name and some of the kids hit it there after the Palace on Sundays. What is the crowd like there? Or what kind of music is being served up? is something you just might have to take a chance and find out. Currently, we can not give this Club a rating.

The Marquette is a club to visit when you just want get up close and personal with some of those guests that appear to be from that talk show (you know the one) where they spend most of their time cursing and fighting each other for no apparent reason! With better screening of their patrons, The Marquette has a great potential to be a

"Class A Club." Or maybe they should just enforce some simple rules such as, "If you fight in the club or outside of the club on club property, you will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." Marquette gets a 4 Rating and is a place to visit only if you are planning not to start a fight.

New on the scene is **The Chaparel**, Atlanta's coolest after-hours spot of Sundays. The crowd is hype and the music's dope. Madd action here. Check it out. It's somewhere on Bufort Highway

Now let us move on to some of the Great Shopping Places of Atlanta. **Lenox Mall** is the place to be in Atlanta on Saturdays with great stores, a wonderful food court and yes, great boyz to watch. This is great stimulant for shopping. **Shoemakers Warehouse** in Midtown features the best men's and women's footwear. **Ruby Tuesday's** at the Lenox Mall is fine for lunch or dinner. The best place get your workout on is at **Bally's** in the Northlake Mall off of I 285 and La-Vista Road. **Run and Shoot** on the Metropolitan Parkway near East Point is a place to get your lift on or shoot some hoop. Both places feature the hottest men you will ever want to lay eyes on. They give you great motivation to pump your body up. Neither one, however, are cruising places. Just being around phynne men is enough to motivate me more to keep this body under construction.

Moving on to some other topics.....

The Ballroom Scene here in the South is the **Gay Fashion Underworld**, according to one house Diva. Personally, I think it more like a gang without the drugs and violence. Atlanta is home of many Houses and the kids are excited about being apart of one. Every house wants to win at the Ball and some house participants will do anything to get that title. Be it Body, Labels, Runway or Avant Garde, the children will give it to you one way or another. There is something of a thrill to watch the kids carry on and on some occasions somewhat disappointing when the kids want to turn a great competitive event into a knock-em-down-and-drag-em-out brawl. Well, what you expect? The kids are serious when it come to walking Balls. I have some advice for some of them. It okay to walk the Balls and feature your looks and talent. It's very late to live for the Ball and not have a life outside of it.

This month, Clikque Magazine offers their anniversary issue. I had the opportunity to photograph Dwight Powell (Publisher of Clikque) for the cover and let me be the first to tell you that this cover and the photo spread is HOT! There were some photographs that were so hot, he will be releasing them one by one. The issue is titled

"Cleaning of the Mind, Body, and Soul" and I was able to capture Dwight actually experiencing this cleanliness through the eyes of the camera.

After the photo-session, Dwight was kind enough to treat me along with a friend to brunch. This was an opportune moment for to ask Dwight about Clikque and Banjee Magazine. One of the questions I asked Dwight was regarding the late publishing of January and February issues? Dwight was very candid with his answers and after listening to his reasoning, I can truly see that this young Black Businessman is really going to be very successful. If you didn't know, Banjee was launched in January and unbeknownst to Dwight & business partner **Derrick Goodley**, this new magazine took off at full speed ahead. With the folding of **GBM Magazine**, this was the opportune time for a new, fresh magazine to come out and join in the ranks of **Black Inches**. A fresh look with new faces along with a variety of Black Models is truly a welcome change to the adult magazine industry for Black Men. Dwight offers Black Men with body. Some of these men are just plain sexy. One of things I personally like is that Dwight features Models that would even appeal to me. Personally, I like the bottom types. Dwight has not dropped Clikque nor is the magazine Bankrupt as rumors may have it. What Dwight has done is take a long look and inventory of his business. This gave him the opportunity to re-evaluate his goals and make renewed commitments to being successful.

Banjee, according to Dwight, is available now in several Countries and the fan mail has increased tremendously. Clikque is stronger than ever. You may have noticed in the latest issue, the new advertisers. It is no-longer just a local publication. It has moved into the National League. Here is an interesting fact: Clikque is now the largest monthly Black Gay Magazine in the nation. There are other Black Gay Magazines, but they are not in the same league.

Yall take care now...hear!!!!!!!!!!!!

By: Jerry Boles





Our team grows...



From left: Charles Dickey, MSW, LCSW, Kimball A. Johnson, MD, Lee R. Anisman, MD, (seated), Gail Parker, RN, MN, CFNP and David H. Morris, MD.

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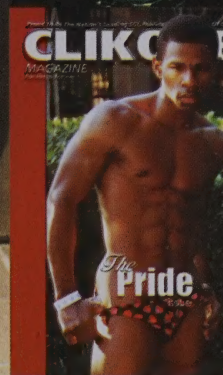
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MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.



Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.



not the same thing happen when you have finished the next piece of gum?? Staleness is a part of life. It is up to you to revitalize and rejuvenate the taste in your mouth so that freshness can develop. Just think of all the bubbles you can blow into the future with the SAME pack and be happy.

* Don't break up just because you see another phyné body that you feel is so ALL that. This includes seeing people from the clubs, the malls (which are the clubs), the gym, and/or the train, etc. Remind yourself of the long-term commitment with your partner & gracefully move on. Be careful what you pray for and be mindful of the old & familiar phrase → "everything that looks good to you is NOT ALWAYS good for you".

* Throw away that negative "cheerleader" principle that says: Men - - can't live with 'em & can't live without PARTS of 'em.

* Stop assuming things without communicating the way you feel. Talk about your feelings of the relationship WITH your partner & NOT with ALL your friends. You never know what agenda your friends may have for a "desiring" impromptu breakup. The information you tell your friends only enables them to have the inner scoop of what could help them score your lover. Remember, to your friends - don't advertise your lover - one of them just may decide to BUY.

All of these tips & guidelines are very important to any relationship whether gay or straight. The proof of the pudding is all in how the 2 people in the relationship choose to conduct themselves to a threshold of longevity. This is the only possible & conceivable way known to many successful "relations" throughout the years. Most say that the first years or so are the hardest, but after those years pass most jointly agree that the mental maintenance becomes easier, better, & more exciting. This is reminiscent to Clikque Magazine's success. Just

as adversities and happiness are attached to social relationships, owning and publishing a successful magazine can be best described as indistinguishable. I am certain that through these 3 years, Clikque has painstakingly gone through those moments (as many relationships have) of wanting to throw in the towel, find other "projects" to work on, and/or suffer losses & incur profits. I am very elated that Clikque has decided to hold on to the strings of opposition withstanding the total test of time. For without the determination of the owner, one would not be reading this article now.

I am reminded of the Christmas story of Dr. Seuss', How The Grinch Stole Christmas. Everyone knows of the strong willed Grinch and how he did not want the people of the fiction town to enjoy their Christmas holiday. This is very prevalent in today's society relating to relationships, too. Most people are so surprised when they see anniversaries progress through the years. They think only of the negative aspects and calculate the couples' breakup date to the month and day not to mention the reason and the season. They would rather drink gallons of Haterade than wish them the best. With a lesson that need to be learned, allow me to interject this. The Grinch's story offered a powerful and rewarding lesson. The lesson learned was that Christmas was not about the most "presents one could get", but the amount of love one could "carry" in their heart while giving it to others. Anniversaries are products of disciplined relationships that practice these soul saving rules. No matter how you look at it, relationship or not, in this world we all have to get along with each other in some aspect of life. We might as well make the decision to love & respect one another — For better, for worse !!

Happy Anniversary Clikque !! (Pop)
(Bubble) (Pop) (Bubble)

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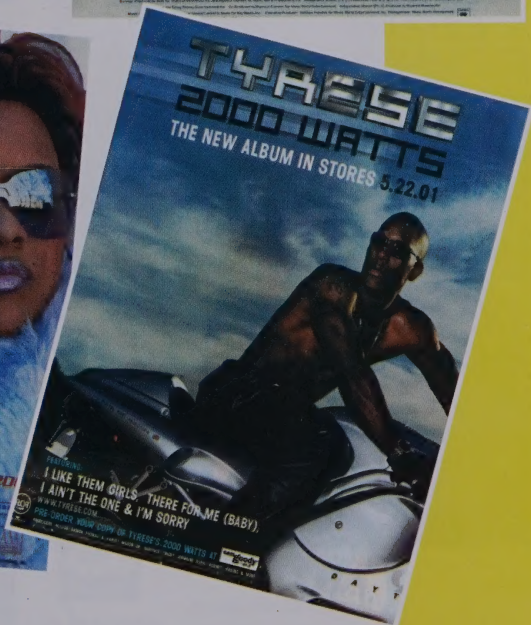
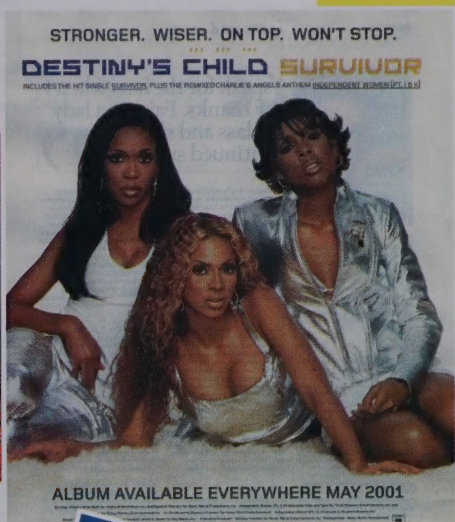
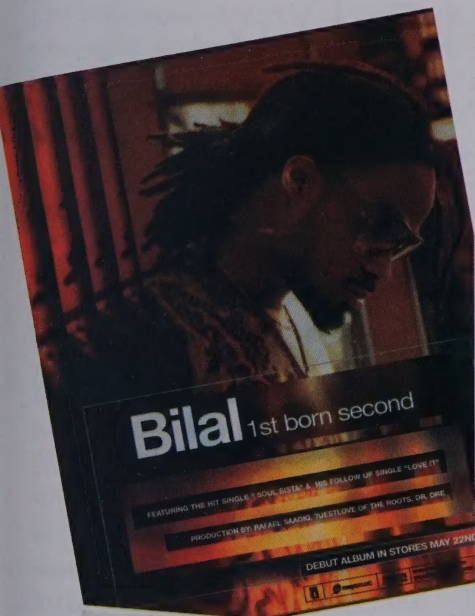
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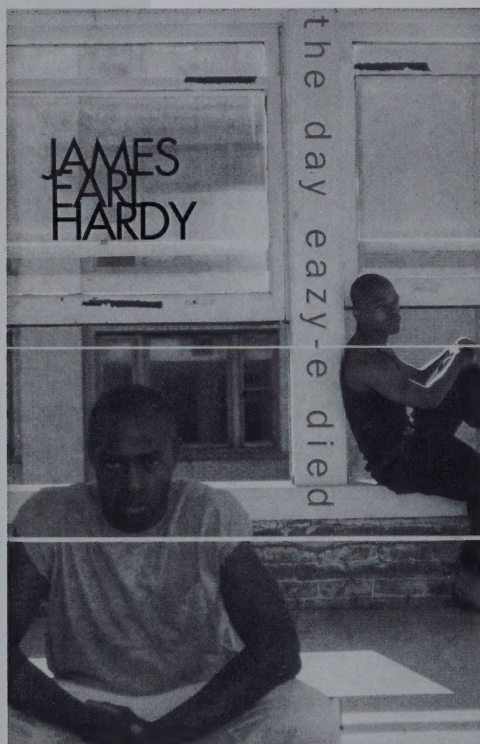
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LETS READ

THE DAY EASY-E DIED

James Earl Hardy
A B-Boy Blues Novel



"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans between the ages of 25-44. Furthermore, African Americans accounted for 56% of all HIV cases reported in 1997."—A 1999 Press Release from The National Minority AIDS Council

"Surveillance data analyzed from 25 states with integrated HIV and AIDS reorting systems for the period between January 1996 and June 1999...show that even through AIDS incidence (the number of new cases diagnosed during a given time period, usually a year) is declining, there has not been a comparable decline in the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases among youth...Cumulatively, young African Americans are most heavily affected, accounting for 56% of all HIV cases ever reported in this age group."—Young People at Risk: HIV/AIDS Among America's Youth, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2001

There is no doubt that when it comes to realistically chronicling the experiences of contemporary black gay life and love, no one comes close to James Earl Hardy. His deft exploration of the cross-cultural differences among African-Americans, clear-eyed examinations of racism and homophobia, and passionate pleas for peace have made the best-selling B-Boy Blues series a modern classic.

At the end of *If Only for One Nite*, Raheim Rivers and Mitchell Crawford's love had been tested by ghosts of the past; now it will be tested by the haunting specter of AIDS.

As Raheim juggles his increasingly hectic schedule as a supermodel, he is rocked by the news that one of his idols, N.W.A. founder Eazy-E, has AIDS. His complacency shattered, Raheim gets tested but keeps

it a secret. Meanwhile, life goes on around him, as his son struggles in a new school, his ex-girlfriend falls in love with a new man, and Mitchell becomes increasingly concerned by Raheim's withdrawal.

As he has so successfully done in the past, Hardy masterfully draws his fascinating and very real characters into the ferment of urgent societal issues. He has created a powerfully real look at the issues facing young people of all sexual persuasions, young Black men, who are disproportionately infected and affected by AIDS. The book confronts the issues of sexuality, responsibility, and youthful perceptions of immortality.

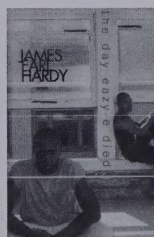
As the date for disclosure of his test results draws near, Raheim's fear and the ongoing stigma of the disease push him toward conflicting decisions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Earl Hardy is the author of the best-selling books B-Boy Blues, 2nd Time Around, and If Only for One Nite, as well as a biographies of Spike Lee and Boyz II Men. His work is also featured in Out in All Directions: A Treasury of Gay and Lesbian America and Shade: An Anthology of Fiction by Gay Men of African Descent..

A 1993 Columbia University school of journalism graduate, Hardy is an award-winning entertainment feature writer, reporter, and critic. He has been honored by the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors and has won the E.Y Harburg Foundation Arts Award and the Educational Press Association Award. Hardy's writings have appeared in The Washington Post, Out, Essence, The Advocate, Newsweek, Entertainment Weekly, and Vibe.

Born and raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, he currently resides in Gramercy Park in Manhattan.

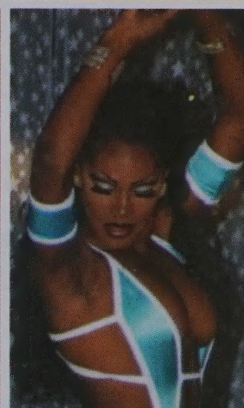
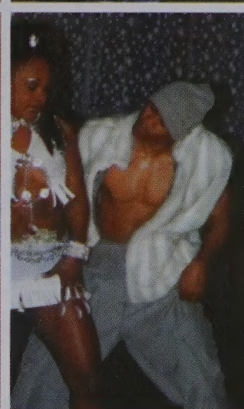
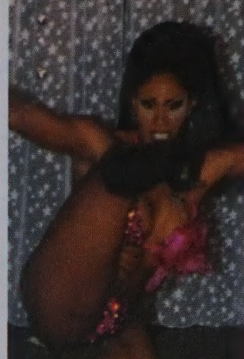


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RASTAMAN Δ LION

"Me cyan't fuck wit him! Him jinnal! Sam fie men!"

"So what!? The brotha is phoine! Just break him off some knowledge while you tap that poom-poom. You can do that, can't you?"

This is how my partners sexual quirks would manifest; the emancipation of an Amerikkkanized and colonized mind by way of my seed, turned him on. I had to admit the power given me by the Most High alone made me nut, but coupling with such a pretentious idiot as the brotha in front of me, well, that could be awesomely different. Like eating something sweet and salty or hot and cold or, simply being caught between darkness and the light.

He'd unknowingly insulted me...my Locs, my Crown. Praising my face, the lightness of my skin, mistakenly attributing it to Europe; denouncing the African kink of Glory and dismissing that the color is Latin.

"Him dead an' don even know it. Let him rot in Babylon wit him brethren and dem bumba claat mind!"

"Don't kill him Rundi. Just fuck him and let him know Rastaman is a lion."

I looked at my friend and agreed that the brotha was phoine. He's just a victim of his society. Maybe my seed could change that. He was worth a try. Physically, he stirred my loins. I decided, for my partners voyeuristic pleasure and my desire to uplift, to plant my seed deep within him.

With very little persuasion, we arrive at my loft. My partner goes into another room, positioning himself for easy viewing to what's to transpire.

I burn candles and incense. Pour libations for the welcoming of the ancients. The brotha and I partake of the "spirit tree."

He stood 6'4. Smooth cocoa brown skin, clean shaven, low fade, solid basketball build with a bubble butt. Seemingly intelligent, lacking common sense.

He rambles on, asking idiotic questions regarding my heritage, homeland, beliefs and disbeliefs, my culture, as if I were actually from another planet; the dreaded top/bottom question and what I liked.

I say nothing, staring at him. Nodding,

shrugging, politely disagreeing when stereotypes emerge.

We sit. He continues. Talking excessively and nervously.

I rise to open the drapes, exposing the night and the lights from the city below. The view is breathtaking. The ancients have arrived.

Without looking at him, no longer acknowledging his insipid, non-sensical conversation, I disrobe. exposing my wondrousness to him and the city below. I turn and face him. No facial expression, just my beauty, looking him dead on. He begins to stutter with whatever his feeble little mind can muster for him to utter on how to deal with this 'season of the awakening'.

(You see, brothas and sistas; there is nothing more beautiful than you-in your natural state. A natural brotha or sista, is beauty, absolute.)

I let him bathe in my glory. My mane, extending, roaring, like the mighty Lion. My body, my Manhood, Godlike in everyway.

"Rastaman a lion. I an' I gwine beat down Babylon. Better must come."

Inquisitively he tilted his head. Amerikkka has fucked you, I thought. Now I must love you.

"Yo. You tryin' to put some of that island voodoo shit on me?"

"Vodou! Di other, Amerikkkan fi wi cyan't speak up fi wi self!"

"I don't understand."

As if time were standing still, I walk to where he sat on the sofa. I kneel between his legs. Raising one leg, I remove his boot. I do this to the other, never losing eye contact, undressing him slowly until he too, is completely nude. I stand over him. This isn't the only brotha, prey to a colonized and fascist society. But this one, I am going to set free.

"A people losing sight of origins are dead. A people deaf to purpose are lost. Under fertile rain, in scorching sunshine, dere is no difference. Dem bodies, mere corpses, awaiting final burial. Ayi Kwei Armah."

"What? I don..."

"Shhhhhhh!"

I lead him to the window. Standing behind him, I have him lean forward, placing his hands on the pane and exposing his manly ass to me. With a swiftness, I go to my knees again, inhaling his man funk. I bury my face between those solid cheeks, lapping his essence as a lion to the river, quenching that thirst. He moans and thrusts back. My body begins to vibrate with power. I want him to be made aware. With every poke of my tongue, his manhood rises and drops, flopping, yet as hard as diamond.

"Me gwan natural. Natural, only brotha."

ing in his ear, as my and his thrust are met with an immortal power.

"Open de heart!", I cry.

"Oh God yes! I feel you brotha. I feel the Lion. Fuck my ass! Ahh, God help me. I'm gonna cumml!"

I keep pounding his ass, while I raise my hands to the sky. In an ancient Anoa chant, I call for my seed to be released in the bowels of this mortal; filling him with the knowledge of the ancestors before and the ancients before; filling him with the remembrance of our way. The Way. Our bodies tremble as we are fused together in one moment in time. He, spilling his seed, the seed of Shaytan (the deceiver) on the floor, as the seed of

EROTICA

With that said, I rise. Placing my dick at the entrance to his manwomb, wrapping my arms around his chest. I want him to feel me with every fiber of his being. I want him to know me; to have remembrance of our way. The Way. I plead, softly, in the name of the Most High. My entrance into his halls is met with walls of mortal death, but, minimum resistance. My full length extends into the man, exceeding pain into the world of sheer pleasure.

"Know me. I an' I wan you to forward an' start anew. Know me."

He thrusts his ass back onto me over and over again. With each, he cries. The vibration is stronger. With all the power of the Vodou within, I muster the spirits of the ancients to speak with him; whisper-

the Lion wakes him. We collapse, heavily, to the floor. Still inside him I hold him as the last pangs of orgasm start to subside. Breathlessly, he whispers:

"Yae...I know thee. I remember the way. Reciprocity...the way of Creation. The way it unfolds."

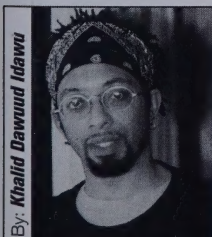
"Never forget..." We who hear de call not to forget what is in our nature, have we not betrayed it in dis blazing noonday of de killers? Around we, dey have placed a plethora of tings screaming denial of our nature, tings welcoming us against ourselves, tings luring us into de whiteness of destruction. We too have drunk oblivion, and overflowing with it, have joined the exhilarated chase after death!"

"Rastaman. I understand."

"Let Jah be praised. Let correction be necessary."

Brothas and sistas, do you understand?

Khalid Dawuud Idawu



Want More Information On This Topic? or About The Author

If you would like to get more information about Dennis Lincoln, visit his site at www.dennislincoln.com. Khalid is a senior staff writer for Clique Magazine.



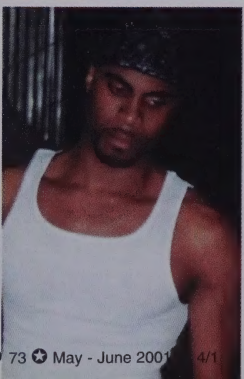
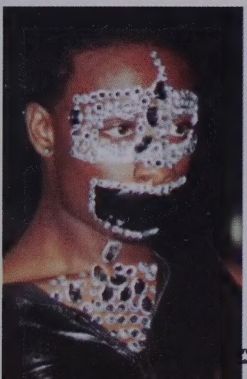
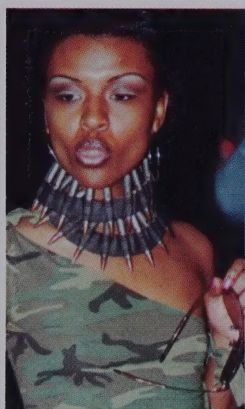
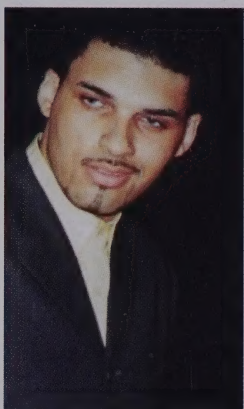
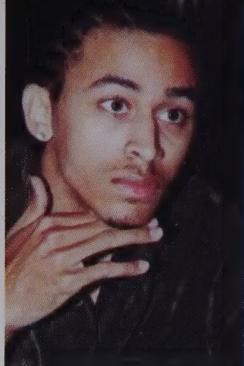


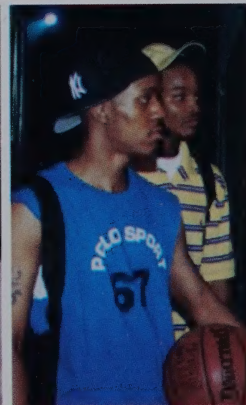
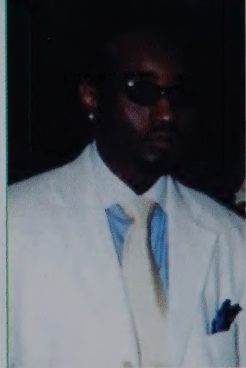
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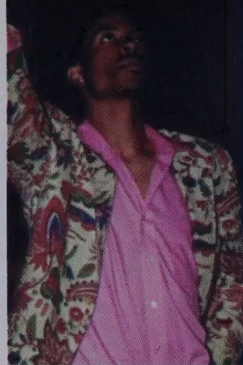
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19th & 20th

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CLIKQUE

MAGAZINE



The Circuit Issue

Houston Splash Kicks-Off Events Of 2001

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MAGAZINE™
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APRIL 2001
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Summer
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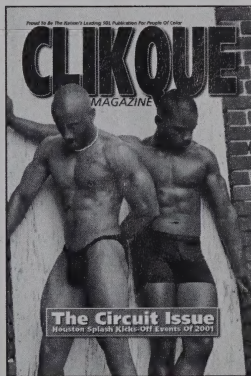
Get back into the action with Craig and Wes



Clikque Magazine
Lorde-Beam
Literary Award:
Best SGL
Publication for 2000

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Photo By Ricc Rollins
Tampa, Florida
Clikque Staff Photographer

HOW TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO CLIKQUE MAGAZINE?

Clikque Magazine™ is published monthly. We are known for featuring the works and talents of individuals all over the country. If you have something that you would like to see published, please submit it to our editorial department via email: editor@clikque.com. You can also send your submissions via mail to 931 Monroe Drive, Suite 102-279, Atlanta, Ga. 30308. We are also on the world wide web at www.clikque.com.

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This New Yorker
Is Looking To Set
Houston Splash
On Fire!

Meet Octavio!

The Next Cover Boy
For Banjee Magazine

@ Clikque Pool Party
Saturday May 5th,
@ Houston-Sheraton
Brookhollow Hotel
2pm-8pm.

Octavio along with
other Banjee Models
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SATURDAY MAY 5TH
Sheraton-Brookhollow Hotel
Pool Party



Houston Splash

Believe it or not, but its here again. That time of year when the heat in Houston sends the kids into frenzy. Yes, we're talking about Houston Splash – Where anything goes. Over the past few years, Houston Splash has earned it's spot as the Official kick-off pride celebration on the Black party circuit tour.

Houston Splash is taking the Party circuit by storm as event organizers Derrick Miles and Sean Dawson anticipates the largest crowd of party seekers ever. Splash is no longer a Southern thing; The events has grown leaps and bounds, attracting the attention of Circuiters all over the country.

Houston Splash, originally started out as a white Gay Day on Stewart Beach in Galveston. In the early years, it was celebrated on the first Sunday in May. As the years progressed and the event grew in size, black folks started making their presence known. As a result, the white folks stopped going. In 1988, Splash became a predominantly black event. That year saw the first organized event with drag shows and half-naked men from around the state of Texas parading there wears for all to see. The event has its fair share of heterosexuals who enjoy a good southern drag show or have friends of the gay persuasion. The first party was hosted by the legendary Miss Cookie LaCook, undeniably, one of the best hostess this side of the Mason Dixon Line. The founding members of the Splash committee were Tony Powell, Ricky Thurmond, Dwight Branch, C. David Pollard, Ms. Jacobie and Grover Fortenberry. Tony Powell is the only member of the original Splash committee who still works on the event. In 1996 Derrick Miles and the late Cliff Hunter, co-owners of Incognito The-Club, a major nightclub in Houston, trade marked the event and called it Houston Splash™.

Over the years the African American community became more and more involved, and eventually, the party evolved into the largest Black gathering of gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, and same gender loving on the hot sands of Galveston Beach and in Houston. Today, Derrick Miles, Sean Dawson and the other Houston Splash organizers have set in motion a tradition of fun and entertainment serving fantasy and excitement bigger than Disney or Six Flags.

There is no doubt that Houston Splash is here to stay and that the event is big and growing every year. Over the past few years, the event has earned it's place as an integral part of the black pride circuit joining cities such as Atlanta, Washington DC, New York City, and Los Angeles; Well almost.

Mr. Miles and Mr. Dawson, as the official hosts of Houston Splash vow to bring Splashers the legendary events, sights and sounds that have made the event known worldwide. This year Mr. Miles and Mr. Dawson have a "mission". Mission: Possible 2001", is the theme of the Weekend celebration. Events will kick-off on Thursday May 3rd with the 4th Annual Strip-Down in H-Town hosted by Atlanta's Dominique Rashad and the Hilarious Sophia McIntosh. For a complete list of events, visit www.houstonsplash.com or call 713-237-9431. Mission Possible VIP Splash passes are on sale now.

With all that's planned Mission: Possible2001 will be the biggest, best, and hottest event to get your summer started. Houston Splash organizers hope that you will be their honored guests at this years festivities. It won't be a party without you!

Oh, yeah, don't forget to join Klikque Magazine in Houston with it's own Anniversary Pool Party- in the city where it all began. Sophia McIntosh will host Klikque's Legendary Anniversary Pool Party at the Sheraton Houston-Brookhollow Hotel. For more information on this event visit www.klikque.com or call 404-288-8883 –CM–

May 3rd - 7th 2001 • Houston, Texas

Thursday May 3, 2001 - "The Siege"

Place: Incognito The Club

Time: 10:00pm - 3:00am

All the way from Atlanta Ms. Sophia McIntosh & Dominique Rashad hosting the 4th Annual Strip Down in H-Town. Showtime @ 11:00 pm with DJ Chris Johnson from Los Angeles on the wheels of steel.

Friday May 4, 2001

6th Annual Kick-Off Party

Place: Incognito The Club

Time: 10:00 pm - 4:00am

The Legendary Cookie LaCook along with Chicago's Otis Mack will host our 6th annual Kick Off show beginning at 11:00 pm
2 Dance floors of music pumping the best in Hip-Hop, House, Reggae and Bounce.

Saturday May 5, 2001 -

"The Conflict"

Houston Splash Seminar Series (Men)

Sponsors AALGA & The Men's Gathering
Radisson Hotel Noon-1:30pm & 1:45pm-3:15pm

Houston Splash Seminar Series (Women)

Sponsors American Express Place: Radisson Hotel
Time: Noon-1:30pm & 1:45pm-3:15pm

Ladies Night - Octopussy

Place: Incognito The Club

Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am

Cookie LaCook along with Bette Neeley of The Brick in Dallas will host a night of illusions and dancing with DJBlake and DJ Ms.

Black Trade Raid - Armageddon

Place: The Hangar located on the corner of Roberts & Polk, 6 blocks from Incognito Club
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am Come experience the ultimate battle between GOOD & EVIL with 2 Dance floors featuring the best in Deep House, Hip - Hop, R&B, Reggae, brought to you by the countries top DJ's, representing "Chocolate City" DJ - Sedrick, from Dallas DJ - 008, from the "City of Angels" DJ - Chris Johnson, and from the "Big Apple" DJ - Fred Piercell The nations fines male and female dancers will be on hand raising hell here on Earth.

Sunday May 6, 2001 - "Do or Die"

Houston Splash "2001" Beach Party

Place: Stewart Beach in Galveston (Just follow I-45 South until you hit water...)

Time: 12:00pm - 7:00pm

Mission Possible VIP Passes are available to all the Houston Splash Sponsored Events. Members will be automatically entered into various raffles throughout Houston Splash, and of course, membership allows you to bypass the long lines". This year's Splash Pass is only \$80 payable by cashier's check and/or money order to: Houston Splash, P.O. Box 35431 Houston, Texas 77235

Southern Diva / Stripper Extravaganza Party

Place: Incognito The Club

Time: 9:00pm - 3:00am

Showtime @ 11:00 pm hosted by Ms. Sophia McIntosh all the way from Club "TRAXX" in Atlanta along with Ms. PT from "The Metro" in Dallas. The countries top performers will be on hand with 2 Dance floors of music.

Monday May 7, 2001 - "The AfterMath"

The Hot Body Revue

Place: Incognito The Club

Time: 10:00pm - 3:00am Showtime @ 11:00 pm hosted by Cookie LaCook and DJ Tony Powell





Performance That Really Makes The Grade.

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- Generally well-tolerated to help you stay on treatment
- "Strongly recommended" as part of a first line regimen in DHHS Guidelines²

SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Mild to moderate rash is a common side effect of SUSTIVA. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA, because birth defects have been seen in animals given SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA should not be taken by patients who are also taking any of the following: Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot derivatives as there is the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects.* See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



Once DailyTM
SUSTIVA
efavirenz

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References:

1. DPC Study 006, Sustiva/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. 2. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Dept of Health and Human Services; January 2000.

www.sustiva.com 1-800-4-PHARMA (1-800-474-2762)

Because Life Goes On



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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to

go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

* SUSTIVA™ is a trademark of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company.

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6495-03/Rev. February, 2000

HIV/AIDS UPDATES

Clikque Magazine

Part 2 OF 3

Dateline: March 25, 2001; Dallas, Texas. This is something that I rarely do, fancying myself somewhat of a creative writer, but I shall take the liberty of reprising part of my article from last month for those of you who missed it:

On January 9, 2001, at the 8th Annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, my alarms were vindicated. It was on that day, at that conference (at which I was in attendance), that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released preliminary data from a study that was conducted in seven major cities (Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle) called the Young Men's Study (YMS) that may just be the sound of the "death knell" for African American MSM.

EXTINCTION OR REVOLUTION (PART II)

The purpose of the study was to determine the prevalence of HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV) and syphilis infection amongst young MSM and risks that these individuals had subjected themselves to that had led to such infections. *The study was done in two phases. Phase 1 surveyed 15 to 22 year old MSM between 1994 and 1995; Phase 2 surveyed 23 to 29 year old MSM from 1998 to 2000. The initial findings, released for the Dallas area, sent shockwaves through the*

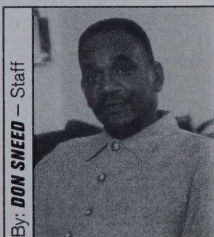
conference. The Phase 2 findings showed African Americans, in the Dallas area, with an HIV infection rate of 32%, HBV infection rate of 35% and a syphilis infection rate of 9%. The HIV infection rate amongst young African American MSM was nearly three times that of their white counterparts. The HBV infection rate was nearly twice that of young Anglo MSM and the syphilis rate was almost nine (9) times that of whites in the same sampling group. Simply put, one out of three African American gay, bisexual and MSM young men, between the ages of 23 to 29 was infected with HIV (one out of three!)

During the week preceding the dateline of this article staff at Renaissance III tested approxi-

mately ten African American MSM in these same age groups three out of the ten were HIV infected. None of them are over 25 years of age and the youngest is 20 years old. Since being funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct HIV testing of African American MSM in the Dallas area our highest infection rates have and continue to be found in young Black gay and bisexual males.

It is very important, for us to arrive at an effective resolution of this "mass-sui-genocide" (a race or body of people killing themselves and one another), that we realize and accept the magnitude of the problem. Honestly, I don't believe that we (African American MSM in the collective) are going to be capable of doing that any time soon. Calling for additional mas-

Continues On Page 15



By: DON SNEED — Staff

Want More Information On This Topic?

HIV/AIDS Editor Don Sneed is the Director at Renaissance III, a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS. If you would like additional information on this topic, Don can be reached via email at donsneed@clikque.com. Other: www.cdc.com or www.cnn.com/health.html

Can't Afford Your

TAXBILL?

The IRS Says There Are Options

It can be an ominous feeling, penciling in the amount of federal tax you owe at the bottom of the worksheet and realizing you don't have the funds to cover it. Images of Internal Revenue Service agents releasing hounds could tempt you to change your name and check out flights to countries with no extradition agreement.

But according to tax advisers and the IRS, before you consider fleeing the country you should take a deep breath and look at the many options available to those who can't pay their tab.

No matter what, file on time

The most important first step, tax advisers said, is to make sure to

CCH Inc., warned that requesting an extension is not the way to go, since extensions apply only for filing difficulties and not for inability to pay.

"The common perception is that you file for an extension to bide your time to get the money together," Roth said. "But then you end up paying interest, a late payment penalty and a late filing penalty."

**The IRS doesn't
want to kill any-
one; they just
want their money**

Uncle Sam. The IRS now uses two companies, Official Payments Corp. (1-800-2PAY-TAX) and PhoneCharge, Inc. (1-888-ALL-TAXX) as facilitators for credit card payments.

Although the IRS does not charge extra for credit card payments, both intermediary companies charge 2.5 percent of your payment to the government as a "convenience fee."

"There's also going to be the usual 18 percent interest (from the credit card company)," Roth said.

But while the IRS accepts MasterCard, Discover and American Express, they do not accept Visa. Pay your tax on lay-away, no money down! If you are short of both cash and credit, then the best course of action is an installment plan with the IRS, experts said. If the amount owed is less than \$25,000, taxpayers can file an Installment Agreement Request, Form 9465, and request a payment plan for up to five years.

OPTIONS IF YOU CAN'T PAY

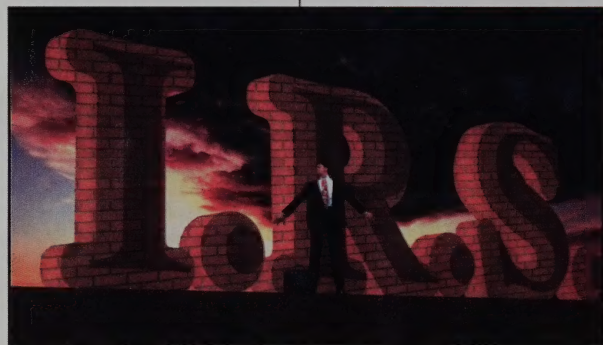
The IRS offers a number of options for taxpayers who can't meet their obligations

- The IRS takes credit cards
- Installment plans up to 5 years
- Compromise agreements

Payments are made monthly by check, or can be debited directly from you checking account or pay-check, and the IRS does not require any financial statements.

There is a \$43 charge for an installment agreement, and the IRS charges interest every month of 0.5 percent of the balance due. This interest rate drops to 0.25 percent per month when the installment agreement is officially approved, providing the return was filed on

Continues On Page 14



file your tax return on time. That helps you avoid penalties for late filing and also the appearance of trying to dodge the IRS.

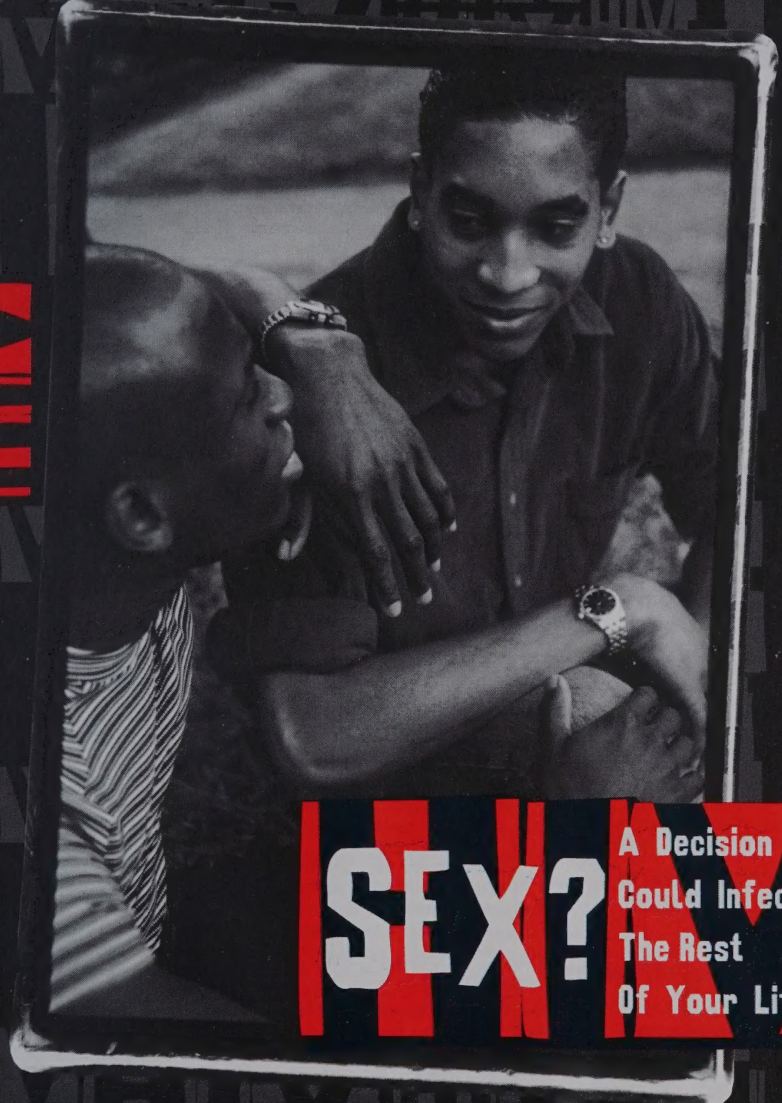
"Always file your tax return on time, even if you don't have the money," said Frank Degen, a member of the National Association of Enrolled agent. "The biggest penalty is late filing."

John Roth, senior analyst for

Says Frank Degen
Enrolled agent

The IRS suggests you file on time and include as much of the payment as you can afford. The taxpayer then has a number of choices on how to proceed next.

Many taxpayers are still unaware that the IRS now takes payment by credit cards, which may be the easiest way to settle a debt with



SEX?

**A Decision That
Could Infect You
The Rest
Of Your Life**

HIV is still spreading. And it doesn't discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation or age. Use a latex condom. Every time. And if you've been careless, get tested.

**June 27th is National HIV Testing Day
GET TESTED.**

**Houston Department of
Health and Human Services**



**City of Houston
HIV-Infoline: 713.794.9020**

THE GANG

Meet The Movers and Shakers
Behind This Product



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Continued From Page 12

time.

Degan said the IRS usually responds within 30 days, and noted the 0.5 or 0.25 percent interest paid is much

less than the 5 percent monthly interest penalty for late filing.

"Pretty much the installment plan is the way to go," Degan said. If financial straits are so dire that a five-year payment plan isn't going to cut it, taxpayers may be able to work out a deal with the federal government to pay part of the amount owed, known as an "offer in compromise."

Again, filing on time is key, enclosing an "offer in compromise" form, Form 656, and a "collection information statement," Form 433A. The IRS will then determine your eligibility.

Tony Bardi, an enrolled agent, said the IRS "seems to be pretty reasonable" about offers in compromise.

"They usually don't take the first offer," Bardi said. "We usually first send the bare minimum (offer on behalf of our clients), but if (the taxpayer) files bankruptcy the IRS aren't going to get anything."

"If you go to them they seem to be pretty reasonable working with the taxpayer," he added. "If someone doesn't contact them it's more work for them and they don't see the motivation and desire from the taxpayer to rectify the situation."

"They have probably heard every excuse in the book, so be straight with them and they'll help you out," Roth said. Information about eligibility for installment plans and compromise agreements can be found at the IRS Web site.

The dreaded penalty The full wrath of the IRS can easily be avoided by communicating with them and addressing the problems. But simply avoiding the taxman can bring the maximum penalty.

"You can be looking at 25 percent of the tax that is owed, plus all the interest," Degen said. "If you don't pay then the IRS can take some pretty Draconian measures."

"But the IRS doesn't want to kill anyone; they just want their money," he added.

To avoid the fate that befell Al Capone, experts recommend the taxpayer take immediate steps to figure out why they owe so much money.

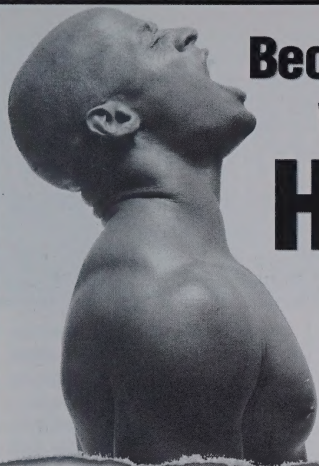
"A lot of times people with a home business don't realize they have to pay estimated taxes," Roth said. "This is where an accountant comes in. It may cost you now, but will save you a lot of money down the road." He also said software programs like TurboTax have features to help individuals find out why they are paying so much.

Sometimes the taxpayer may have estimated their tax bill appropriately but is hit with a sudden cash flow problem, such as a payment being unavoidably delayed or an emergency trip. In that case, Roth said the oldest remedy might be the best.

"Go talk to mom and dad, the best loan company in the world," he said. —CM—

The Legal Stuff

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Continued From Page 11

sive HIV educational campaigns targeted for our body of people, in my opinion, will be another exercise in futility. A person would have to have been a rock on the moon, for the last twenty years, not to know the fundamental facts about HIV and how it is contracted and what to do to prevent infection. I believe that the problem is much deeper than most people realize and are willing to admit. Currently, there is a clarion call throughout the HIV prevention community to have programs targeting African American MSM "grounded in behavioral science theory" and for prevention service providers to spend inordinate amounts of time and resources proving that programming is being delivered in such a manner. This might look good on paper but out here in the real world (beyond the realm of theory) it is not always possible to reduce an individual, their thoughts, feelings and actions to a scientific equation.

Recently, I conducted an impromptu survey of ten African American gay, bisexual and MSM. I asked them did they believe that the act of one man being sexually intimate with another man was wrong. Specifically, they were asked: "Is a man being gay, bisexual or having sex with another man, wrong?" Ten out of ten stated that it was wrong. I went on to ask them why they believed that what they were doing and being is wrong. They all stated that their religious training had taught them, from a very early age, that such acts were wrong, an abomination and the practitioners of such were condemned. Honey, you don't need a scientific theory to figure this one out! If I believe in the deepest core of my being (my soul, my spirit) that I am wrong for being who and what I am then it does not matter whether I become HIV infected or not. To the contrary, I am probably deserving of infection as a just punishment for my transgressions (sins).

Additionally, the religious community from whence I come is continuously attacking my value as a human being and child of God, with the ultimate purpose of annihilation, repudiation and/or transformation. They call Black folks soul people for a damn good reason: we, for the most part, unequivocally believe in the soul and spirit realm of humankind. I have yet found any behavioral science theories that even acknowledge the existence of the soul and spirit of Black folks.

I submit to you, my brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters that the soul and spirit of African American so-called MSM is what needs to be worked on and addressed. Until we enter that frontier, which is a paramount reality for us, and begin the work of healing, understanding and loving we are just spitting in the wind. More in part III.

—CM—

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Or Your "Clothes Hanger" Back!!

As an African American gay male still learning about himself, PRIDE is one accomplishment that I can speak of that really has made a difference in my life. I first had to LEARN more about myself & FIND myself in order to GROW and LOVE myself. Physically and spiritually, I was fine,

condoms & lube, & my PRIDE level. Of all five of these things, Pride plays a big picture in everything that is done. Do not believe me? Keep living & soon you will see. As Natalie Cole says in her song, I'm Catching Hell "it's not about the real big things it's {all} about the small things. Go on & laugh - it's true". Webster defines PRIDE as a "feeling of self-respect and personal worth." Taking pride in my sexual consciousness, or sexual aware-

questions. Growing up in a predominantly anti-gay and unsupportable city, I wanted to know everything that happened at pride events. I mean —was it a gigantic meat market where a plethora of gay men getting together and have relations?? Would I need to bring someone of whom I'd been dating to bask in the sun holding hands as if we were just SO meant for each other for show and tell?? Or would I need to attend a Susan Lucci acting sem-



Photo: TRAXX Nightclub in Atlanta by Dwight Powell

but sexually I was confused & bewildered. I had to learn that in order to make it in this "man-eat-man" world, I would definitely need to know the following: my limitations, ethics, morals, principles, & sense, the whereabouts of my DIVA handbook,

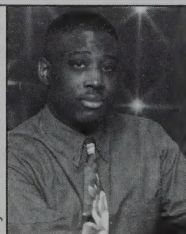
ness, if you will, was something totally different that I learned to accept then appreciated. To me, it all started when I heard about GAY PRIDE.

In 1995, I began to understand that gay pride events were taking place in various cities & states and surprisingly was being celebrated annually. My inquisitive mind initially started spinning with unanswered

inquiries and act as if I was the last thug on earth showing everyone that I'm not a homosexual, but that I just like to hang around gays to show my support? Of course, I would be looking at everything that moved & to those who gave me the slightest eye movement of interest.

A year later, in 1996, I was determined to find out what I'd been wanting to know so as to dispel any

By: ALAN "MC" SHERMAN



Alan "MC" Sherman, 29, resident of Atlanta, is a journalist & freelance writer. He started writing at the age of seven from which he wrote a series of little short stories & poems. He is the author of three editorial compositions published in Reader's Digest along with a impending essay in Essence Magazine. Being fascinated by words and their origins, Alan currently adds to his writing accolades, two poems published in The National Library of Poetry. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Journalism from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Alan can be reached at alansherman@clique.com.

type of rumor or myth or any pre-conceived idea I'd read about, heard, or come up with through speculation. While there I had a good time, but found out that pride was celebrated in shades of ethnicity. During this year, I participated in two gay pride ethnic events (one Caucasian and one African American) to see what made them so different. After primarily only attending the Caucasian events, I wondered about the impact gay pride has on the African American community. After attending the second group, I concurred with the negatives & positives on the similarities and differences. Here are my findings.

I noticed that the typical Caucasian gay pride event included the following:

1. The typical parade with streams of banners and whistles.
2. Rainbow colors worn richly.
3. Significant others hand-in-hand. Some almost dressing alike.
4. Booths and/or groups advertising their services and/or products.
5. Those playing with their volleyball, badminton, & frisbee.
6. There was predominantly a picnic setting surrounded by places to buy drinks, food, desserts, popsicles & oodles of pride paraphernalia.
7. Pets were running all around while battery charged equipment could be heard.
8. Last, but not least, cruisers could be seen waiting to pick up their victims especially at the Port-o-lets.

I noticed that the typical African American gay pride event was somewhat different but slightly similar in context & intent. I noticed the following:

1. More inside atmospheric & social settings.
2. Immense flyers passed around about the different club events for the weekend.
3. Heightened awareness of STD's & AIDS as to prevent & cope with the disease(s).
4. Pool parties, mini private freaknik sessions are all set up around town.
5. More flesh is shown in moderation to the eye and to the imagination.

6. More single people are present or more people who have left their significant others @ home.
7. Fashion is in full effect & showing many men ERECT!! (smile)
8. Club admission prices are ridiculously increased.

Even with all of these differences & similarities, there is still an adverse temperament when it comes to the African American society. It seems more prevalent that WE are more apt to NOT show up at gay pride events because most feel apprehensive in being seen by the media, other black people, or those people who had no clue that they were gay (yet THEY are there, too). Others feel that it's only a Caucasian thing and that if one attends he/she has "sold out". This is only the thought of the beholder. If you go out of your house to attend a function such as this to have a good time, it is up to you and no one else to make that good time happen. There is no charge in finding mental happiness. So, while it is free, why not indulge? Now, please do not think that I do not understand where these apprehensions stem from for I know very well. I have just come to the realization that in order to have peace of mind, I have got to mind my peace by learning what ME happy. Attending gay pride events are up to the individual and whether it is a good choice or not to them not to anybody else. Just remember sensible personal pride is your only guide. No one else can make the decision for you.

Let us shift gears for a moment and compare the subject of PRIDE with that of the working field. If someone takes the initiative on an assignment and completes something before someone asks him or her – that person could be looked upon as having pride for their job. If someone makes their company more money by submitting proven & successful ideas to better improve the company – that person could be looked upon as having pride for their job. If someone goes above & beyond the call of duty and receives an Employee Of

Continues On Page 18

Clikque Magazine
Anniversary Pool Party
Saturday, May 5th

Sheraton
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The Month recognition award — that person could be looked upon as having pride for their job. Lastly, if someone likes to keep their area nice & clean, consistently wears their uniform or flawlessly dresses nicely to work while showing up with a cheerful disposition — that person, as well, could be looked upon as having pride for their job. I say all of this to say that pride comes in many different packages. Be proud of you & only you. Reach inside yourself and place forth the best real person that can be given to others. Be proud of who you are and what you stand for. As for the working field scenario above, someone NOT putting their best foot forward, comes to work late, has a bad disposition all the time, loses the company money & cares less if their work gets done or not ISN'T showing pride for their job. They lack all the essentials it takes of having something to be proud of. These people must remember that even though they do

not believe in having or showing pride for their job that their so-called pride can backfire on them. For these NON- working people, PRIDE could stand for: Prepare Resume Immediately, Dismissal Expected !!! (smile)

In all seriousness, this article hopefully has given more insight on being proud by loving one's self to show pride. My intent was to bring the reader more closely to him or herself as it relates to happiness or self-love. By all means, I am NOT advocating that in order to have or show pride one MUST attend a Gay Pride Event. I merely outlined my life in regards to sexual consciousness & sexual awareness which then I associated personal pride to pride events. Pride is not just a gay thing, but something that goes far deeper that what can be seen or heard. Remember, we are not the creator of our bodies. We merely are borrowers to a loan or lengthy consignment. It is up to us to decide how we plan to

maintain our lives, pay the note, & to live until we are able to retire and call the loan "paid in full". Forget what other people think. Loving us for us is the key to longevity. But, just as my title implies, one can continue holding onto the "clothes hangers of life" i.e. hiding behind the shadows of out-of-season & moth eaten clothes and well worn hats & stay in the closet OR accept who they are and become satisfied with a guarantee that only inner peace, self-respect & self-worth can bring to their existence. I do encourage, as well as, entice everyone to attend at least ONE pride event. Know from experience. Have something to talk about the next time should the subject arises. While Pride is one thing, representation is a whole new subject. Keep in mind, being PROUD does not necessarily mean being LOUD. Just believe in YOURSELF & you're guaranteed to find WEALTH. You may now close the closet door and leave the room.
—CM—

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International Federation Of

BLACK PRIDES

Formed By Black Pride Organizations Last Year



Nine Black Prides organizations from around the United States formally adopted bylaws, elected officers and embarked on the process of incorporating the International Federation of Black Prides (IFBP). Black Pride organizations from Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, DC, New York, Minneapolis, North Carolina, LA at the Beach, and Jacksonville, FL have met four times over the past two years to form an organization that represents the interests of the Black Pride movement in the United States and abroad.

"We are very excited about the prospect that awaits the IFBP as we provide support and technical assistance to Black LGBT communities who have or are interested in forming a Black Pride festival" explained Earl Fowlkes, newly elected President of the IFBP. Fowlkes served as the president of DC's Black President for three years. Other officials elected were Ken Pickens, vice president representing Chicago's Black Pride; Wendell Carmicheal, vice president representing LA At The Beach; James Saunders, treasurer representing New York Black Pride; Michelle Anderson, secretary representing Twin City

Black Pride; Gervon James, secretary representing Jacksonville Black Pride.

The mission statement of the IFBP is as follows: The International Federation of Black Prides is a coalition of Black Pride organizers; formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, and individual and collective work, responsibility, and self determination.

According to Ken Pickens, IFBP vice president, "the propose of the IFBP is simple, we want to work with Black Prides around the country to help them make their event stronger and in the process make their communities more visible and stronger." The IFBP plans to invite participation in the IFBP from the remaining Black Pride organizations in St. Louis, Kansas City, Houston, Dallas, Phoenix, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, Memphis, Oakland, Tampa Bay, New Orleans and San Francisco. In addition, other goals of the IFBP will be to work on national sponsorship of all of the IFBP member organizations, work on a marketing plan to promote all Black Prides and develop a "How To Plan A Black Pride" manual.

APRIL 2001

The National Black Lesbian Conference, "Our Time Has Come"
April 12-15, 2001, Swissotel, Atlanta, GA, register online at www.zunainstitute.org.

6th Annual Youth Pride Day
DuPont Cir. Washington, DC 202-588-8008, www.youthpridedc.org

Philly Black Pride (PENN Relays)
www.geocities.com/phlblkpride
215-496-0330

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Houston Splash Weekend, TX May 3-7th www.houstonsplash.com or www.clikque.com

11th Annual Bayard Rustin Breakfast- Sponsored by AIDS Action, for info 617-450-1644

DC Black Pride - May 25-27th, Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Memorial Day Weekend - Washington D.C., Washington Convention Center, www.dcblackpride.org or call 800-94BLGPD

For further information regarding the IFBP and related activities please contact Earl Fowlkes @ 202-841-7104 or jrfowlkes@aol.com.

Save These Dates

2001 PRIDE DATES

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Nat'l Pride Month

The Book House Cafe, Reader, Writer, Publisher, Workshop/BookSigning in conjunction with Oakland Black Gay Pride. www.bookhousecafe.com

MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE, for information call 901-521-6922

GMAD's Annual Fashion Show, NYC Parsons School of Design, Manhattan. Contact www.gmad.org, 212-414-9344 30th June,

NYC Heritage of Pride . FESTIVAL. Greenwich Village, Washington St. from Christopher to Spring. MARCH 5th Ave.Steps off @ 52nd St. 12 noon to end.

JULY 2001

At The Beach (ATB). The Host Hotel-Los Angeles ATB info 323-293-4282 www.atbla.com

2nd Annual Windy City Black LGBT Pride, Inc. weekend, Chicago, IL. For Info visit call 773-986-0661

4th weekend, Chicago Black Pride, 773-731-8665 or www.chicagoblackpride.org

GMAD Annual Summer Conference for Men of African, Caribbean, Latino diaspora who share same gender loving experiences will be held in New York City. 212-414-9344 ext. 28 or www.gmad.org

Bronx Pride [Latin Pride] 718-365-6239, 718-364-9529

Hotter Than July Weekend Detroit, MI. 3rd weekend. For more information visit www.hotterthanjuly.com

ADODI New York Summer Retreat, 312-458-9584

National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) Conference

AUGUST 2001

New York City Black Gay Pride, Pride Hotline 212-613-0097, or www.blackpridenyc.com

Black Unity Pride Celebration, Cleveland, Ohio. BlackOUT conference, 216-752-4524, shakaspr94@aol.com.

Minneapolis/St. Paul /Twin Cities Black GLB Pride ebiz.netopia.com/blackpridemn, 877-633-9512

SEPTEMBER 2001

In the Life Atlanta Black Gay Pride. For info on Host Hotel and activities call 404-872-6410 or visit www.inthelifeatl.com

NELGF/Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend 202-483-6786

The ExxonMobil African American Women on Tour, Los Angeles, CA, Sept.29 - Oct. 1, Debbie Allen, Keynote. For more information call

800-560-AAWT(2298); or register online at www.aawot.com.

OCTOBER 2001

Dallas Black Pride for more information call 214-742-2101

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NBLGLF-AIDS P Brother-2-Brother Malibu, CA 323-9 in the Spirit"

National Minorit (NMAC) US Conf info-202-483-662

ONX Men of Color Weekend. 31 www.onyxmen.com

NOVEMBER 2001

Creating Change Conference sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) 202-332-6483, www.nglftf.org

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Five Pointers For A

PROSPEROUS PRIDE

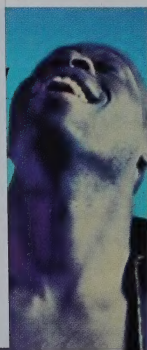
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hen Dwight asked me to write an article about how we can better enjoy the impending Pride festivities, I began to think about my brother Bernard. Bernard is vertically challenged. Being children, with vocabularies as scant as our sense of compassion, we just called him short. Too

rushed for that mirror. My mother began furnishing our house with more plastic items. Like the eighteenth century vassals of Europe, the neighborhood kids and I had created a monster. Looking back from my new, pink perspective, I can now accept my responsibility for our little Napoleon.

My brother was merely a martyr of circumstance. So am I. We gay men strut about haughtily, toting salaries, degrees, and stunning wit under armor fashioned by

Prada to protect us from one word: punk. Punk, sissy, faggot are the mirrors mortals use to try and cut us down to size. Why? Because we are special. We are fierce. We are superior. This is what we tell ourselves, since we know we will not hear it anywhere else. What's the point of being of being crucified if



ciate himself from us.

"I have no time to indulge in the childish games of you silly mortals," an actual quote with which he would dismiss us, strutting into the house.

By high school, when our mailbox began brimming with more than a few scholarship offers from the country's finest schools, almost everyone around me had converted to Bernardism. But my brother's smoke and mirrors quickly collapsed under the weight of one phrase: "So... that's why you're so short!" It was the spell that unleashed a tempest, the mirror for an Emperor's new clothes. The more he wielded his cutting condescension, the more I

you don't get to walk on water?

Well, my brother Bernard could not walk on water and neither can I. Perhaps, every once in a while (only amongst ourselves, of course), we gay men could acknowledge that we are no better than anyone else. Let's start with Pride. I beg you, don't think that you will arrive in any of these holiday hotspots and rewrite the rules. Somewhere in your caravan of summer suitcases, please pack these tiny travel tips.

1. You are probably not going to find your husband* wherever you're headed, not even in Houston, where are all the boyz are reportedly well-mannered and gainfully employed. And even if

as you are reading this magazine you think that you have met Mr. Right, keep you job AND your apartment. The last thing any of the sweet chocolate cities need is another bitter brother bad-mouthing its residents. Throughout the animal kingdom, summer is a season for sex. Some of us are looking for more. But if I had a dollar for every man I met that promised me the moon, but proved that even my phone number was too heavy to carry... well, I'd be writing from the Omni in Cape Town about summer safaris in Afrika.

2. Speaking of dollars, leave a few at home for rent. Or better yet, pay it and your other bills in advance before you leave. Of course, this means you will have less to shop with. Though trust, between the all guilt and fear you'll bring back from those one night stands, you'll have little room for any other bags. And if that does not give you pause, then marinade in this: Those of us who cannot find the money to come with you won't have it to loan to you when you return!

3. When out at TRAXX (pick a city - they've all got one), remember that every element of a club - from subdued lighting to strong drinks - is designed to make things look good. I suggest sobering up a little and walking that dashing discovery out to a patio or some such well lit location before making any commitments. Naturally, the very best thing to do is to just flirt a lot and then go home and jerk off. That way, you never have to start your mornings trying to make up stories and remember names.

4. Wouldn't it be nice if Pride Weekends had anything to

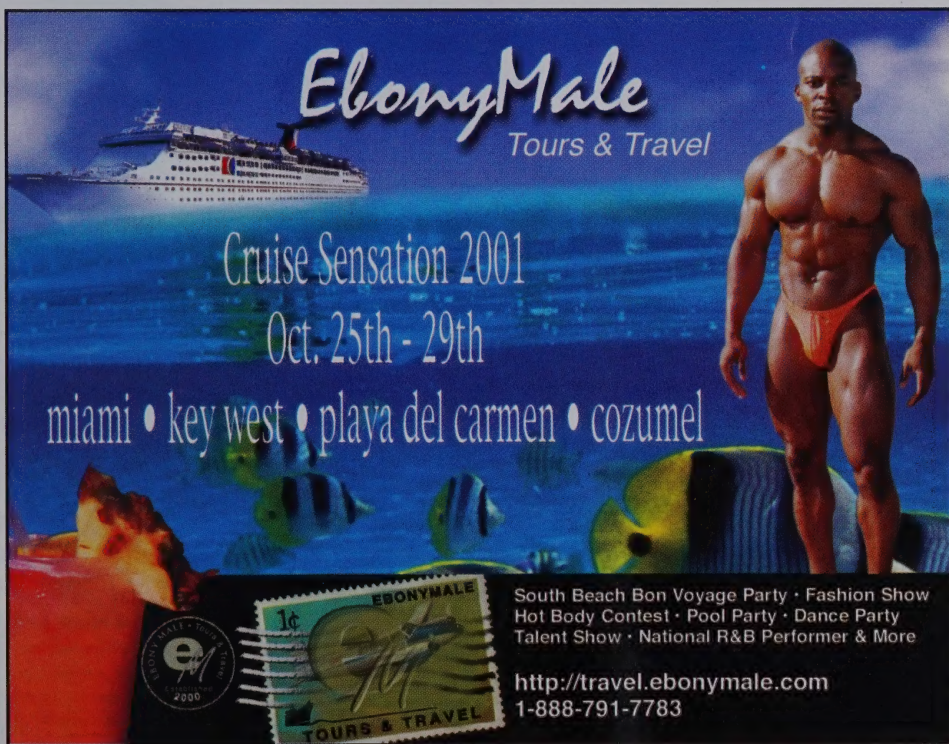
do with Pride? Well, actually... they do. Most cities have Pride committees and those committees have a full agenda of self-esteem improving, community building activities for one to attend. You can often find a schedule of such events in your hotel's lobby, underneath the flyers for that freak party in Room 1210. (Fear not. Usually, the same boys circuit all the sex parties. So if you miss one, you won't miss much.) At the least, attending a discussion/presentation or two will show your appreciation to those planning committees, whose members get paid very little (if anything) to work year-round on your weekend of fun. At best, you could walk out of some conference room with a counter to all those complaints from your comrades about the vacuousness of gay life. You might start networking and even make a real friend; the kind that acknowledges you months later when you pass him in the club; the kind that will help you find a new job, finance a mortgage or visit you in the hospital; the kind that commu-

nities (not lifestyles) are made of. Besides that, I hear the cultural events are where the future husbands hang out!

5. Always carry condoms and courage. Of course, all that making friends/community building stuff must be taken with a grain of salt, which fine men in unfamiliar cities seem to carry plenty of. Visiting a new city and not sampling its local 'delicacies' would be as silly as leaving behind all that free shampoo in the hotel bathroom! But if you slip, don't slide. If you can find the courage to go home with a stranger, find some to inquire about his health status, and don't just limit your conversation to the big one (because there are quite a few little, lower cased diseases that also cannot be cured). In most states, it is a felony not to disclose such information. The answers you get may surprise you, especially if you offer honest answers first! And somewhere in your wardrobe preparation, between H&M and

DKNY, stop at CVS for some latex and lube. Carry a few with you to the club along with your money for those Midori Sours, or grab some off an outreach worker circulating the dance floor. This advice only sounds like common sense if you don't keep current with HIV infection statistics in our community. According to a recent, six-city study by the Centers for Disease Control, one in three young, African American MSMs (Men who have Sex with Men) are HIV positive. Care to guess which six cities this sampling is taken from? You'll find the answer in this issue's Pride advertisements.

Heard all of this before? Then listen again. No one is above this advice. No one is special. No man in New York, Atlanta, DC or Dallas has turned water in to wine. We are all just a bunch of dick-loving Napoleons. He and my brother did have a few points right, however. Since no one else is going to love us, we might as well love ourselves. This Pride, I wish you all the good loving you can get.



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n my brief time here in Atlanta, I have found that the "black gay mecca" that this place is supposed to be has been more like a mirage. Before I moved to this city, I was told by friends who were living here that Atlanta was a booming city for black gay men. With that in mind, I carried my happy little gay self here and promptly immersed myself in the "life." That meant on Friday nights I was at Loretta's, Saturdays belonged to Traxx, and Sunday included cruising at Piedmont Park and speeding over to the Palace (when it was on West Peachtree) before eight o'clock. A party here, a party there-and, of course, Lenox Mall on Saturday afternoon also became part of the rituals of a so-called "gay" life.

However, as time progressed, I began to notice something was missing from the larger picture. Perhaps I should not say missing-rather, something was lacking. I think I noticed it for the first time when I marched with the Second Sunday contingent during Atlanta's Gay Pride in 1997. As we gathered to await the start of the parade, I noticed the literal hundreds of white gay and lesbian people gathered. They were resplendent in those annoying rainbow flags; they were very happy, very gay, very out.

And then, there we were. All fifteen or ten or so of us. Considering the number of men I had seen at Second Sunday meetings and considering the number of men I had seen out in the clubs, it was almost disheartening to see the same ten people whom I had seen at other events outside the club scene.

However, as the parade

began, and as we marched down Peachtree Street, I noticed something else; the large number of black gay men whom I recognized from the clubs standing along the street. Their faces wore emotionless expressions, as if to show any emotion, to give any sign of approval or disapproval would have betrayed them as being one of "us," as being who they were when I would see them at Loretta's, Traxx or the Palace. With the exception of the handful of brothers and sisters marching-a drop compared to the numbers of us in the city-those gay brothers lining the parade route were a stark contrast to the white gay people: they were very silent, very closeted.

For there to be such a large number of black gay men in this city, the community at large is extremely weak politically. To see clubs such as Fusion, the Palace and Traxx packed with black gay men on any given weekend is no surprise; yet when our visibility-and I do mean our visibility-is needed most, when the time comes to stand against

more than simply revealing your sexual orientation to the people closest to you. Coming out is a political act of freedom, and we as black gay people must claim our political power. We first claim our power by coming out, coming out in our churches, our schools, and our homes. There is great power in coming out; the backlash that some of us are afraid of facing is proof of the power that we have. At this point, coming out is not so much about who you sleep with or who you are attracted to; coming out is a defiant stance against a society that seeks to control you.

Exercising our political power is not based only in coming out. Second, we must actively support churches, politicians, and community organizations that support us. For some of us, that may mean leaving oppressive churches in favor of an affirming church. For some of us, that may mean joining a community organization. For some of us in college (particularly in our Historically Black Colleges and Universities), that may mean forming organiza-

homophobic preachers and politicians, those who would stand can be counted on two hands-with room to spare.

In the meantime, we black gay Atlantans fill the mega-churches that condemn us, line the pockets of preachers who vilify us, patronize clubs whose owners do not look like us, and fail to exercise our power at the polls. In the meantime we allow other organizations that don't have leadership that looks like us speak for us. In the meantime, we allow the larger gay and lesbian "community" to create "leaders" for us. Could we be unaware of the political power that we possess? Coming out of the closet is much

tions for us and agitating for a non-discrimination clause. For even more of us, it may mean making our voice heard by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, or challenging a white gay publication on its lack of representation of people of color.

Whatever we do, we should do something, and do it with pride. We must make ourselves be counted. We must make our black gay selves be counted. We cannot allow ourselves to be made invisible or silent. We can no longer afford to stand silent on the sidelines, watching others march for us.
—CM—

By: ROUGER SNEED



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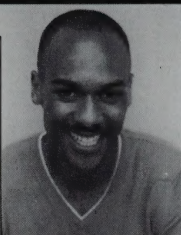
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By: KEITH BOYKIN



Commentary

Is It Time For A New Protest Song?

It's been almost a year since last year's Millennium March on Washington and what do we have to show for it? Not much.

The march did more harm than good in smoothing over race relations in the LGBT community. The organizations that sponsored the events lost money. Someone ran off with a bag of money from the festival and the FBI had to investigate. No new progressive legislation has been passed. The Employment Non Discrimination Act

and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act are still stuck in Congress. And we now have a conservative Republican in the White House and an anti-gay attorney general administering the nation's laws.

By almost any measure, the march was a failure. But you can bet someone, somewhere is already planning to do another bigger and better LGBT March on Washington in 2006 or 2007. Do we really need this?

I Still Have A Dream

Since Dr. King first stood on the steps

of the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963, scores of different groups have tried to recapture the sense of spirit and energy that fueled the civil rights movement. It's an understandable strategy. Stick with what works. The only problem is that it doesn't.

The trouble with the strategy is less an indictment of the Millennium March than of the entire progressive community. We've run out of new ideas so we keep "re-inventing" the old ones. We keep picketing, marching, and chanting while the rest of America continues buying, selling, and ignoring us.

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It's Time for A New Protest Song

We've all heard the chant, "Hey hey, ho ho, fill-in-the-blank has got to go." But no matter how loud we say it, the insertable evil never seems to disappear. It's time for a new protest song, but it's not just a song we need. We need a strategy. The world has changed and we're still using 20th century approaches to the challenges of the 21st century. We're no longer on the cutting edge.

Marches Are Not the Answer

Mass marches are not the answer. These events have become so routine and uninspiring that America has stopped paying attention. In addition, organizers of these marches still haven't figured out a way to tap into the energy that comes from the events and refine it into long-term fuel for the movement.

It's a problem for the entire progressive community. The Million Man March assembled the largest gathering of

black men in the nation's history in October 1995, but the condition of African American men has not improved since that time. The Million Mom March brought out huge crowds and big name celebrities in May 2000 but couldn't help pass new gun control legislation. Other progressive marches have met the same fate.

The real value of these events seems to be that they generate temporary media attention and bring together huge groups of people with similar interests. Many marchers have become less isolated and more empowered when they realize that thousands of other people share their concerns. Still, it's not clear that these benefits outweigh the considerable costs of time, energy, money, and diversion of resources. Nor is it clear that we can't get media attention and empower our communities some other way without spending millions of dollars on a one-day event.

Do these marches really make a lasting impact? That's not clear either. It's easy for many of us to be out, loud, and

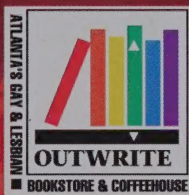
proud on the mall in Washington, but it's not as simple when we return home to Kansas City or Dallas or Portland. Who will support us when the millions are gone? And how do we keep the media interested after the crowds disappear?

With a steady stream of marches, conferences, and panel discussions, the progressive movements have become very skilled at talking to ourselves. But we haven't figured out how to talk to the rest of America. If a march could help us do this, I would be the first to sign up. But my feet are tired. They've been led down too many dead end roads. The next time I march, I need to know where we're going first.

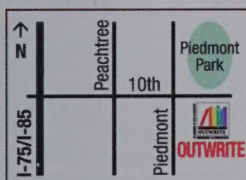
To read more, check out "Keith Boykin's 411" on Gay.com:
<http://content.gay.com/channels/news/boykin/index.html>

—CM—

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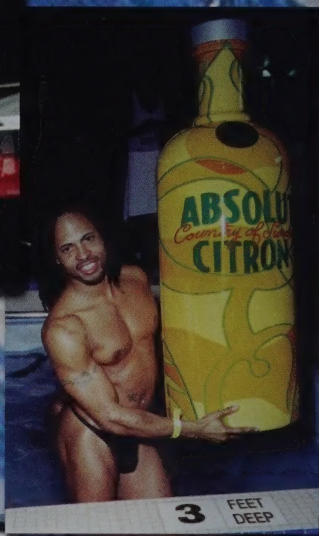
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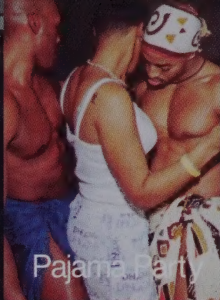
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Party Time



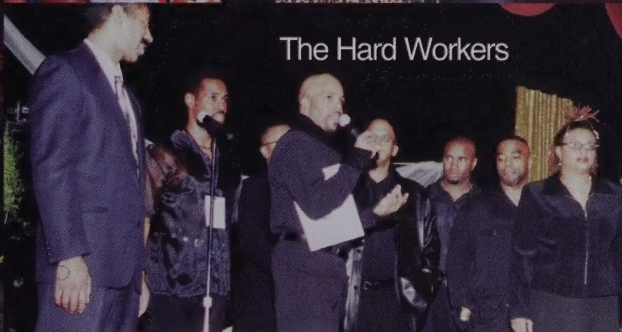
Pajama Part



Pajama Party



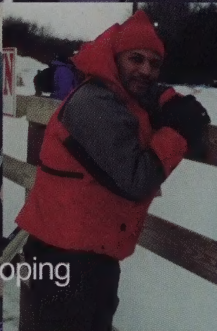
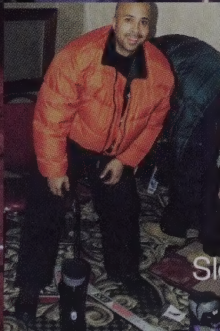
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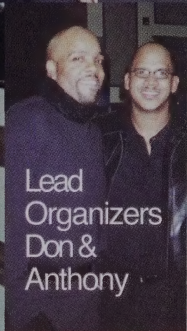
The Hard Workers



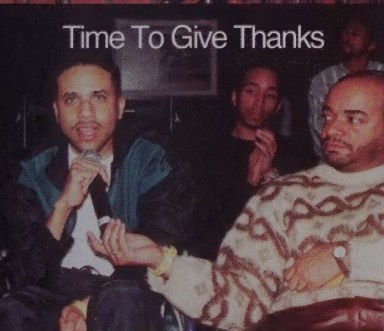
Time For Praise



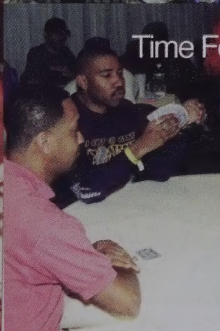
Sloping



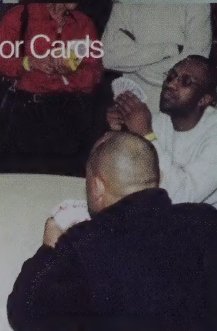
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Time To Give Thanks



Time For Cards



Dating Game



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Time For Eats

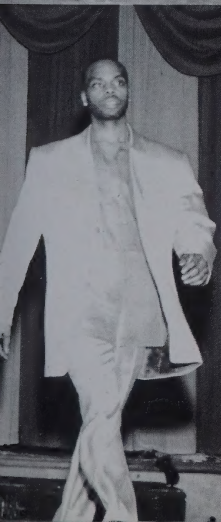
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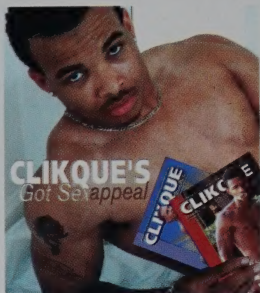


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One In Nine

SOUTH AFRICANS

Are Living with HIV-AIDS



The number of South Africans living with HIV-AIDS has risen 12 percent to 4.7 million, or one in nine of the population, the government said on Tuesday.

The figures, based on the latest national survey of pregnant women attending public antenatal clinics, showed that the deadly virus which leads to AIDS was spreading despite government education and health campaigns to change sexual behavior. The previous government antenatal survey estimated that one in 10 South Africans, or 4.2 million people, were infected with the disease in 1999.

South African HIV-rates are way above those in the West where 0.6 percent of adults in the United States and 0.1 percent in Germany live with HIV-AIDS.

Based on more than 400 clinics throughout the country, the survey showed that 24.5 percent of women attending antenatal clinics last year were HIV-positive, up from 22.4 percent the previous year.

But government officials said the latest survey showed early signs that the disease rate of growth might be leveling.

"There are signs of a leveling off," said health department

spokeswoman Jo-Anne Collinge.

Just over 14 percent of women were carrying the disease in the survey's 1996 period and prevalent rates exploded until the late 1990s when it stabilized at around 22 percent.

The antenatal survey is one of the most authoritative estimates of national HIV-AIDS prevalence and is used by health authorities to plan their response to the disease.



AIDS threatens to kill as many as six million South Africans by 2010, according to demographic experts.

Some independent health researchers estimate that more than five million South Africans are HIV-positive while the United Nations estimates that the epidemic may cut gross domestic product (GDP) by 17 percent by the end of the decade and wipe \$22 billion off the national economy.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa forecasts that South Africa's population will actually contract by 2016 as

annual AIDS-related deaths exceed births.

AIDS attracts controversy

South Africa's AIDS policy has attracted controversy since President Thabo Mbeki questioned the causal link between HIV and AIDS and prevented the use of anti-AIDS drugs such as AZT in the public health sector on cost and safety grounds.

Apart from a handful of pilot schemes, South Africa provides no free AIDS drugs in public hospitals to fight AIDS, preferring to stress education and sexual behavior change to combat the disease.

Mbeki has also appointed so-called "AIDS dissidents" who say AIDS is caused by the use of recreational and anti-AIDS drugs rather than a single virus.

A cabinet subcommittee was examining the panel's draft report before being submitted to the full cabinet and the president, a cabinet spokesman said.

Leaked parts of the draft report compiled by more than 30 scientists urged the government to carry out tests to "prove or disprove once and for all that HIV causes AIDS." -CM-

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Motown has a new discovery, and she isn't your average "Video Girl". No she's not spotting the tainted, relaxed hair of Beyonce from Destiny's Child. Nor does she have the complexion or looks to match. But, what this 25 year old Atlanta native have to offer is a voice and style that's definitely grabbing the attention of everyone. Her name is India Arie.

Standing on the brink of stardom, Stevie Wonder said of India, "A gentle genius lives in the mind, voice and hands of this woman." Major labels have been knocking down India's door for years. However, Motown's President Kedar Massenburg was able to snatch her, recently dropped her first single "Video". Kedar had to promise however, that he would not make her compromise her artistic integrity. She sings songs about life, without limiting herself to the standard topics of what she sees as a sex-crazed genre.

As you see in her first single, nothings been compromised. "Video" sends a strong and positive message to men and women alike, especially to young ladies ostracized by society for not looking a certain way. According to India, the average girl in "Video" is her life story. It is about a girl that she has grown to accept on a deeper level. Accepting herself as she is. Because she is perfect the way she is. Knowing that God didn't make a mistake with her. These are all lyrics in her song "Video".

On March 27th, 2001 India Arie's debut album *Acoustic Soul* dropped from Motown. The CD features the same India Arie that graced Atlanta clubs such as Yin Yang Café. The beautiful voice, the subtle meaning, the presence are all there, but it's the emotion that makes it special. The most important aspect is her voice reflects her soul or to use her example, "If you're singing about crying, your voice should cry." This honestly is why Atlanta natives have known she was going to blow-up; it was just a matter of time.

India Arie

Not Your Average Video Girl

By Dwight Powell

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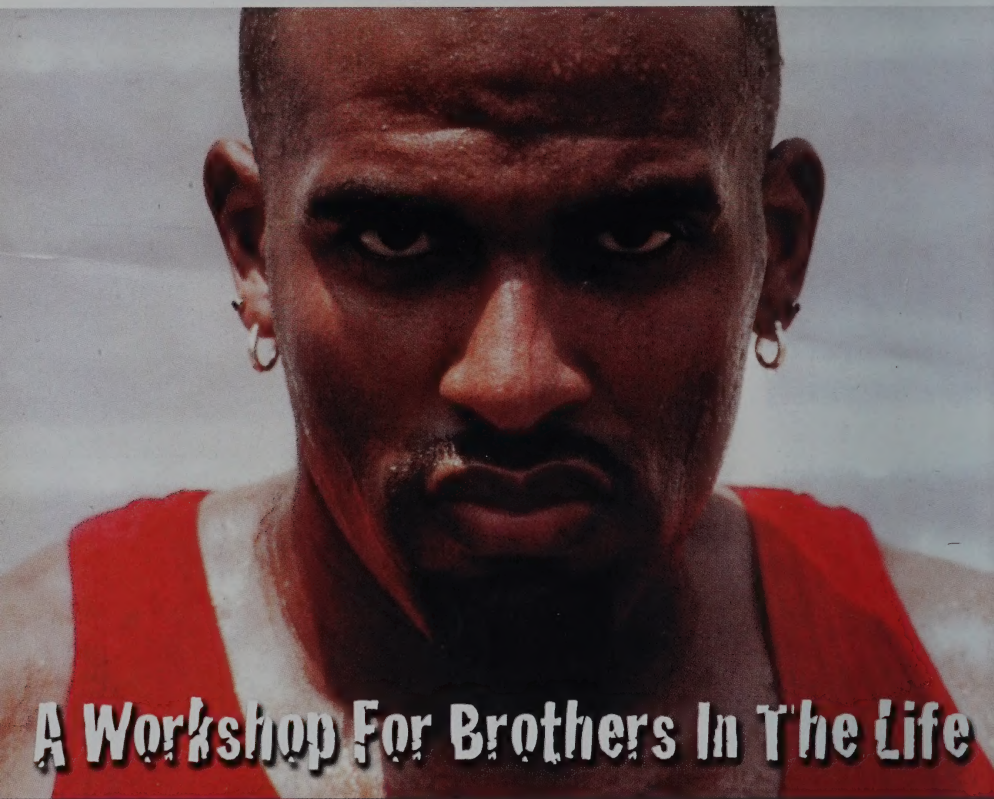


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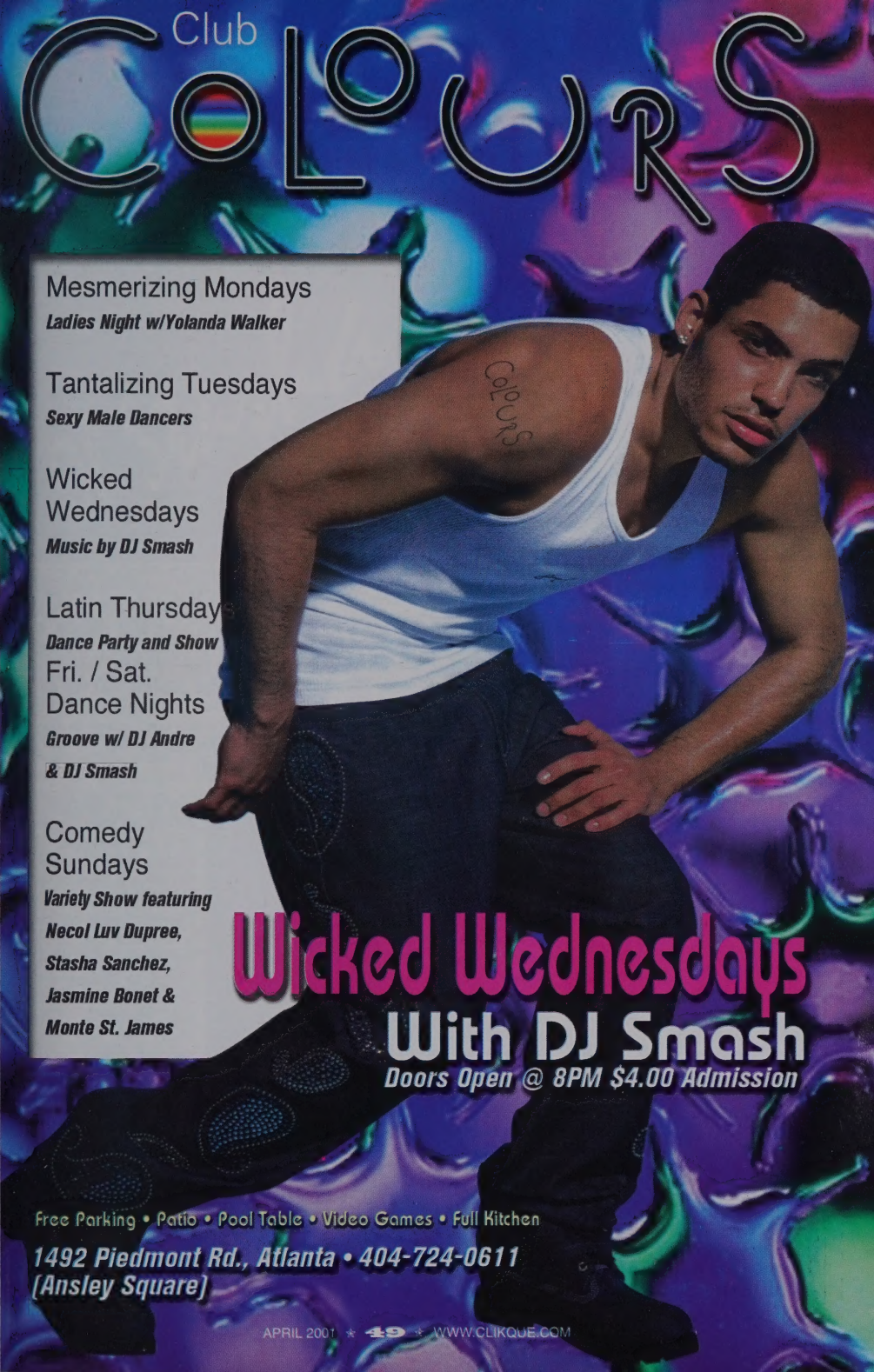
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UPCLOSE & PERSONAL

Stasha Sanchez

One of America's most decorated Female impersonators; she did not win the 2001 **Miss National Sweetheart** pageant held in Savannah Georgia on Feb 16-17.

Well there were some audience members who were ready to fight and others willing to burn the Savannah theater that night, but Stasha sat back and watched as her assistants silently packed her bags and with her head held high, dignity and pride in tact she made a quick exit from the building. The level of maturity displayed by Miss Stasha Sanchez is unparalleled in the Diaspora of female impersonation pageantry today. This is not the Stasha of a few years ago who would have let the judges know exactly what they could have done with that 1st runner up plaque. Instead, she smiled radiantly, showing off her new nose and flawless grin.

When you can lose a pageant, but steal the show to the point where you are the contestant talked about long after the pageant is over, then on all accounts you are also a winner. When asked how she felt about the results of the National Sweetheart pageant Stasha said, "No matter what happens at a pageant, I am generally happy that I competed and after it is all over, win or lose I will still be the great Stasha Sanchez who always gives my best and aims to please."

Speaking of giving her best, Stasha credits that part of her personality to her Dad with whom she has a really great

relationship. Her dad loved her as his young son and now he fully accepts her as his other daughter. Her dad told her that whatever choice she made concerning her life and career she should remember one thing and that is to be the very best at whatever you chose to do. It is this philosophy that Stasha takes with her everyday and the same one that makes her such an entertaining and enjoyable entertainer and such a hard to beat pageant contestant. Miss Sanchez says that if she is not going to give it her all she just does not bother to do it at all.

The issue of family and relationships is where Stasha worries most. Pleasing her natural birth parents matters to her a great deal and acceptance from both of them was something that made the transition from being a boy to living as a woman much easier. My mom and dad taught me respect at a very early age and they proved themselves when I started becoming a woman by treating me with the same respect they had when I was a child. Stasha has one sister who people say that she favors. The respect her family shows her is characterized by their support for her career as an entertainer. Her mom and sister both were there to see her give up her title as **Miss Black America**. They also came to see the Monday night show at Traxx and they were there when she gave up her first National title, **Miss Black Universe** 1997.

According to Stasha the Black Universe title has been the highlight of her career. It was the turning point and a real blessing in pushing her

near the pinnacle of Female impersonation where she now rests. The art is all about growth and getting better and one day Stasha hopes to be sitting at the very top of the hierarchy among the stars. "Black Universe gave me the opportunity to travel across the country showcasing my talents. There were lots of prelims and I met a lot of people". I kept getting called for more and more bookings and my career really took off.

Stasha moved to Atlanta three and a half years ago shortly after she captured the Miss Black Universe title. She was a long time resident of Jacksonville Florida where she was born and also the city in which she won her first pageant. That title was Miss Jacksonville Newcomer. At the time she was a butch queen in drag, as she did not live her life as a woman then.



Highly decorated, adored by many, hated by a few, worshiped by some and liked by most. But there is more to life than fame, beauty and titles for Stasha. We had a very nice chat about the things that really matter to Stasha and the warmth she radiated was incredible. Lets clarify the way Miss Sanchez prefers to be addressed. Stasha is

perfect, Miss Sanchez is okay but Miss Stasha is a no-no. What the heck you might say? Well I was at a loss myself but then she made it clear and now we are all being educated. Miss Stasha is a term that mothers would use condescendingly to refer to precocious little girls or unruly teenagers. That in itself makes it offensive since she is neither of those things. Added to that, in the

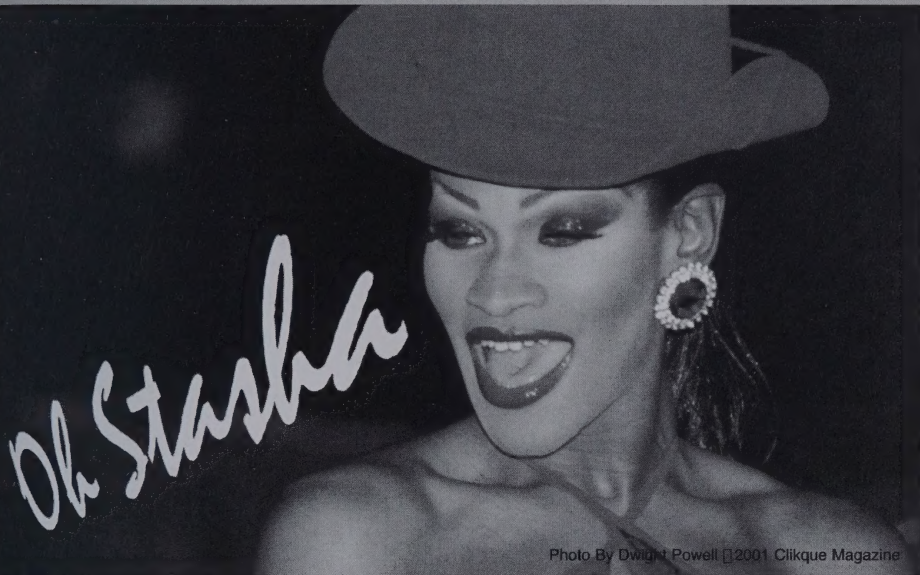


Photo By Dwight Powell ©2001 Clique Magazine

black gay community when they refer to you as miss anything it is never a compliment unless a pageant title goes with it. "Miss Stasha", wreaks of faggotry and is a dead give away that she is a boy when she is addressed as such.

Not that Stasha has to worry about being clocked in public. To the question, how do you react when people realize that you are a boy? Stasha had this to say. "Look at me and ask me that question again?" She was right. Stasha is unclockable which brought me to my next question. Is Stasha satisfied with the way she looks today? I was pleased to hear her say that in terms of her body and face there is nothing she wishes to change or add. The nose job was the last in a series of changes she has made over the years and maintaining her youthful look, fabulous body and that awesome face are a part of her daily ritual for the rest of her life.

Stasha is now more into developing as an individual who can and will continue to make viable contributions to her society and community. She is reading more of late so that she can improve her interview skills and she has also joined **Dunamis** which is a gay black organization aimed at promoting a sense of community among black gays and fostering a brotherhood and sisterhood in the communi-

ty. Dunamis also serves as a charitable organization for the homeless and people living with AIDS. Stasha recently joined the organization and plans on using her many talents to give back to the community. She feels that Dunamis will be able to help her grow as a contributing member of society. This she spoke of with excitement in her voice.

Stasha is also one of those sisters who believes in having her own and working for the things she has. Believe it or not Stasha is very appreciative of the hugs, comments and applause as much as she cares about the tips. Kind words mean a lot to her and encouragement is always welcomed.

Stasha is currently single but is always hopeful of finding that special someone to be with. She has had her fair share of relationships but says that once the whole newness of dating Stasha the entertainer dies down so does the relationship. That is universal to most relationships, only she probably has more suitors because of her flawless on stage presence. She admits that a relationship between two men is difficult. It is even more difficult for a man living as a woman. It takes a really strong man to accept that, no matter how flawless your illusion happens to be. So despite her un-clockable mug and

body Stasha, like the rest of us, finds it difficult to maintain that special love relationship.

Currently Stasha is gainfully employed as one of the Stars of the Century at Traxx the nightclub. She says she likes working with the cast and would not change anything about the cast itself. However a dressing room a little closer to the stage would be nice. Hint hint.

Stasha credits her colleagues **Tamisha Iman** (Ms Black Universe) **Jasmine Bonet** (Ms International) and **Marrissa** for her being what she is today in terms of their support for her career. However it is **Niesha Dupree** that she credits with helping her change and mature both as an entertainer and a person. "Niesha taught me what is was to have self respect and how to be a respectable entertainer." She has grown as an individual and as an entertainer so much so that **Clique Magazine** noticed and decided it was time to recognize her as this months featured entertainer. We salute Stasha Sanchez on her success as an entertainer and a person and wish her continued success.

—CM—

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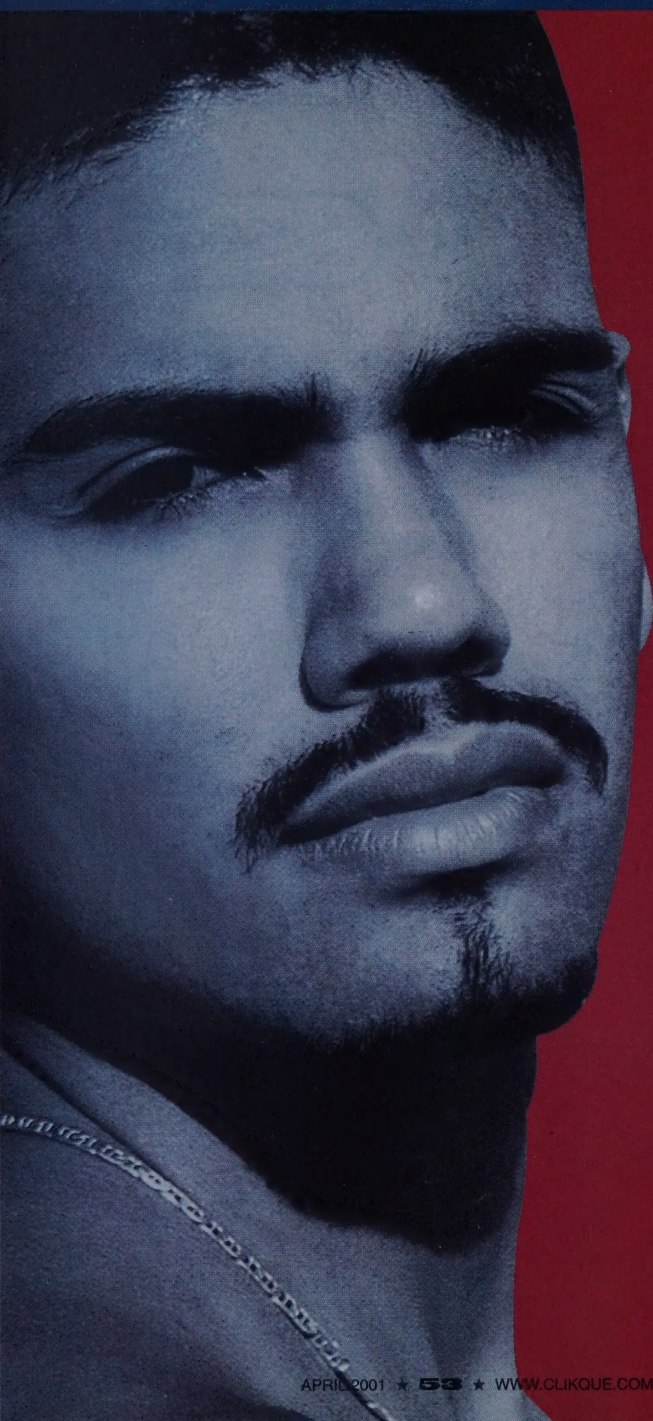
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CLIQUE ONEROTICA

Clikque Magazine

Door "655"

Welcome back to the continuing saga of Door 655. Yeah, it's been a minute, but the story is still as hot as ever. Here is a quick recap: Silas and Wes had just finished having unprotected sex. Silas did not pull out, so there

lies the possibility of transmission of his disease. While Wes showered, Silas steals some money from his wallet to pay his rent; money that was stolen from him by his drug supplier after their roll in the hay. Then, there is Craig, who was found unconscious by William and rushed to the hospital, only to find out that his nurse is the one and only Cicely, one of William's acquaintance, or should I say sex partners. William finally goes home after all of the exhausting events of the day. While Craig rests, Cicely enters his room to check his stats. Being the woman that she is, she speaks her mind out loud, thinking that Craig is asleep. She finally is inches away from Craig, when he rolls over and looks her in the face. The story opens here, with Craig's vital signs going crazy at the sight of Cicely.

Cicely still didn't recognize Craig, she merely gasped because she feared that he had heard everything she had said. The machines were going crazy! Soon the other nurses rushed into the room.

"What is it? What's going on,

nurse Rice?"

"I...I...I don't know. I...I...I just looked down at him and he just looked like he had seen a ghost! And his pressure...and heart rate...just shot up!"

"Uh-oh, you did it again! I told you all about hiring these pretty young girls. These boys can't take it! Get her out of here!"

Cicely raced out into the hall and stood against the wall. Slowly, a tear rolled down her cheek.

"What have I done? He heard me!! He heard me!!"

.....
Silas walked and walked until he made it to his apartment. He went directly to his leasing office and paid

situation. He went to his small bar to see what he had.

What in the hell is this shit?" he said as he reached for a small glass bottle. The label was worn off, but the bottle was half full. He took a whiff.

"Damn!! This is just what the doctor ordered!" he laughed as he poured some of the liquid into a shot glass. "Well, Craig, this is for you, wherever you might be," he toasted as he took the shot to the head. This first shot was followed by a few more and Silas eventually found himself almost unconscious. He lay there on the floor, his breath light, body numb. Suddenly his phone rang. He twitched as the sound echoed in his ears. He rolled

over to attempt to pick it up. His coordination was gone. He knocked it off the hook.

They're Back, Craig, Wes, Silas & Cicely

them in cash. It felt as if a burden was lifted. Yet, he still faced another problem. Had he infected Wes? He thought that it wouldn't bother his conscience. He deserved it. But it wasn't his power to give someone a death sentence, he soon reasoned. He turned the lock of his door and was once again greeted by the silent loneliness that he knew so well. He looked to see if he had received any calls. None. He sighed to himself and tried to sort out his mess. He went in and sat on his bed. He grabbed his remote and pressed play. In seconds, the solemn voice of Nina Simone filled his apartment.

"Damn! Why have I been dealt this hand?" He looked around his empty apartment. His heart grew heavy. Even though he was a strong man, he was still a human being with human feelings. Getting high was out of the question. His number one supplier had really flipped the script on him and stole all his cash. The only other thing was alcohol. He knew that he needed to take himself away from the

"Hello?...Hello?...Silas!!!...Silas?...What's goin' on? You aite?...SILAS!!!"

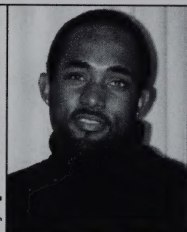
.....
"Calm down baby!! Calm down...relax...relax..." said the nurse as she held and patted Craig's hand.

"Come on, now...it's alright...It's alright...Breathe...breathe..." she said as Craig's chest continued heaving up and down, trying to gain control. Soon, his stats were back to normal.

"Well, I guess she was too much for you to handle, huh? Your pressure shot up like you hadn't seen a girl in years," chuckled the nurse. But she didn't know that this nurse Rice was the same woman that Craig could have choked to death for calling him a faggot. This was the same girl that walked in on him and William in an embrace. She was the one and the sight of her shocked the hell out of Craig. He could give a damn whether or not she was pretty. He would not have some homophobic, conniving, jealous, bitch tending to his medical needs, he

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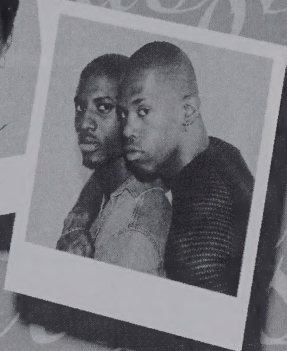
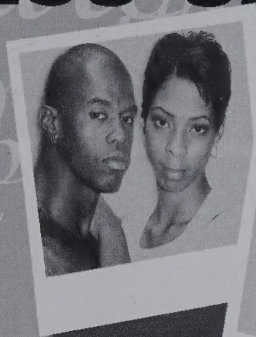
By: QUESHAN HAYES – Staff



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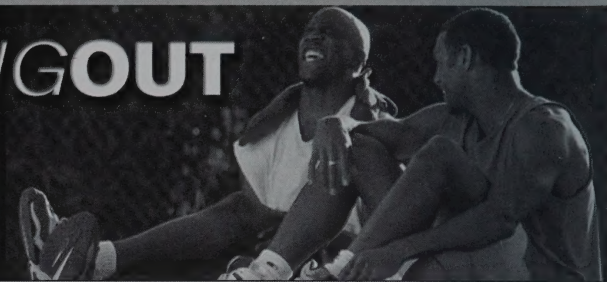


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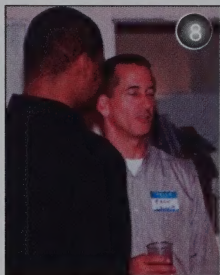
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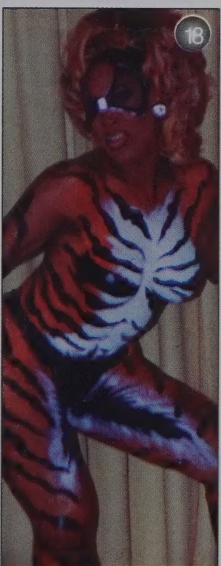
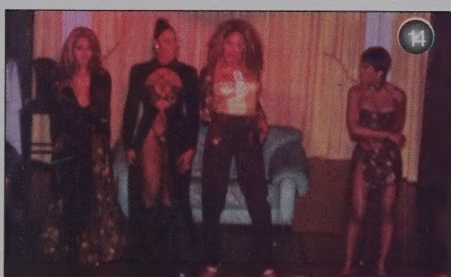
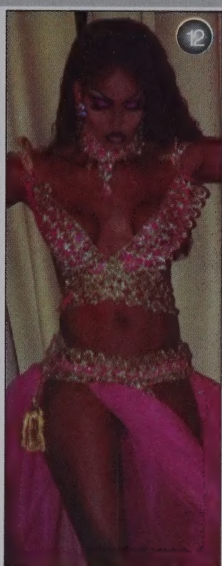
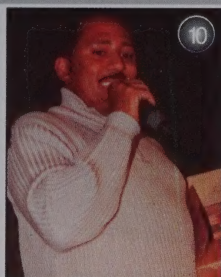
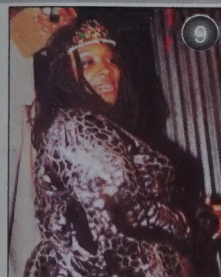
Clikque Magazine



1 Hundreds of party seeker at the **Scorpio Party** held last November. The party was given for **Derrick Goodly** celebrating his 29th Birthday. 2 The flawless and impeccable **Miss Tommie Ross** at the **Miss Georgia USA Pageant** held at Backstreet in February. 3. Newly crowned **Miss Clikque America 2001 Tenisha Casadine** taking in the sights at **TPAXX** after the Miss Georgia USA Pageant. 4&5. Contestants at the Miss Georgia USA Pageant. This Goddess from Hawaii was one of the most beautiful



female illusionist ever photographed by Clikque. 6. The reigning Miss USA, **Chevelle Brooks** showing the Backstreet-Atlanta her dazzling moves. This lady sure can dance. 7&8. **Craig Washington** (in Background), current Director at the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center host a volunteer meet/greet sign-up.



9. **Wanda Smith** & 10. **Frank Skie** from Atlanta's V103 Frank Skie Morning Show celebrating the shows 2 year anniversary @ TRAXX Monday night show – **Stars Of The Century**. 11. **Sophia McIntosh** gets fresh with Frank while on stage tossing CDs. 12. The beautiful **Jasmine Bonet** giving another stella performance. 13. The

Legendary **Lady Fabian Sanchez**



performing with the Stars of the Century. Miss Sanchez was the recipient of the 2001 Miss Clique America Lifetime Achievement Award. 14. Some of the Ladies on the cast of the Stars of the Century. 15 16, & 17 Stars cast members Former **Miss Black Universe**, **Necole Luv Dupree**, **Aderious Black & Monte St. James**. 18. **Rauquel Lord** mixing it up at TRAXX. 19. The Mother of Atlanta, **Niesha Dupree**, giving her all with this number at TRAXX.

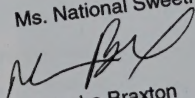
MAIL

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor-in-chief:

As the newly crowned Ms. National Sweetheart, I feel obligated to write you and express how I feel. I truly do respect any man or woman's opinion, but, as one of the leading Black gay publications in this country. One in which, I personally have supported and patronized your Gay Splash events. I feel that certain statements and actions should be handled in a certain manner, when it comes to personal views. I also feel that your readers deserve the whole truth of the matter and not how one of the contestants handled her lost. It so happens that I also respect and appreciate Ms. Sanchez as a person and an entertainer. But, National Sweetheart 2001 was a competition of 6 categories. Not a judgement call on how Ms. Sanchez was graceful after the contest was over. Not once did your magazine mention that Ms. Sanchez was up against stiff competitors and also winning the pageant by 7 points until the last category. In which the most intelligent answer produced the winner. Your lack of mentioning that he did in capturing the title, in my opinion, also was very distasteful. Your magazine also totally disregarded the fact that NSPS and Candiland Productions have an ongoing business relationship with your publication. I would like to add that Candiland Productions fully stands behind my statements concerning this matter. As a professional entertainer, supporter and patron of many other systems- including- Mr. and Ms. Clique America. I think your magazine should first and foremost learn from other systems including NSPS. And then correct the flaws and mishaps surrounding your Ms. Clique America 2001 crowning night. And then perhaps be the one to judge or for that matter allow one of your writers to judge the actions of NSPS. As a suggestion: maybe in next month issue your magazine should write about the upset, the dismay and events that followed the crowning of Ms. Clique America 2001. And whatever happened to the contestants for Mr. Clique America 2001? In closing, I wish your publication much success in the future and look forward to good or bad- reading your magazine.

Ms. National Sweetheart 2001


Natasha Braxton

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



On Behalf of the entire staff and supporters of Clikque Magazine, I would like to offer my sincere apology to Miss Natasha Braxton, Mr. Alphonse Dupree, Miss Candi Wilson, The Mr. & Miss National Sweetheart Pageantry System (NSPS), and all that may have been offended by some of the comments made in an article which appeared in last month's issue of Clikque Magazine. The article insinuated that Stasha Sanchez, last months cover girl, was robbed of the the Miss National Sweetheart Title, which most in attendance thought she had won.

Irregardless of the pageant's outcome, I used rather poor judgement allowing that article to be printed as is. It is not now nor has it ever been the practice of Clikque Magazine to attack a pageantry system... especially one that had been so supportive of Clikque and all of it's endeavors.

Further, I would like to apologize to Miss Stasha Sanchez for the hardship that the article may have created for her. It is extremely important for everyone to know that she had nothing to do with the article. Nor did she have anything to do with it's contents as it related to the comments made about NSPS.

It was my impression that the writer of the article was merely attempting to compare the more mature, experienced Stasha of today, with the Stasha of a few years ago. However, because of the harsh words used, that comparison was not conveyed properly and was instead lost.

Please be assured that we will make every precaution to ensure that such mishap doesn't occur in the future, and as always, we thank you for your support.

Gratefully Your s

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Powell".

Dwight Powell

A black and white photograph of a man's bare torso, showing his chest and abdominal muscles. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

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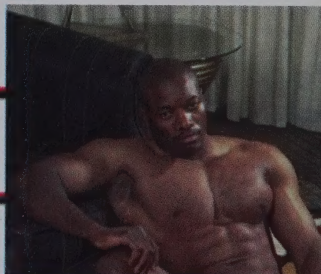
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CLIKQUE ON EROTICA

Clikque Magazine

DOOR "655"

Continued From Page 54

thought.

"Now you get some rest baby and we gonna get you a new nurse," she said as she finale felt that Craig had calmed down. She left the room and found Cicely standing against the wall in tears.

"It's okay baby. He was just a little shocked at how pretty you was. He wasn't ready for all that you got goin' on," joked the nurse. All that Cicely could do was force an uncomfortable smile.

"Now you stay out of his room before you give him a heart attack," said the nurse as she walked away. Yet, Cicely could not walk away. She had to get to the bottom of this. She collected herself and prepared to go back in. She breathed deeply and slowly turned the handle. Craig was wide awake, but resting and trying to relax.

"Hello?...It's me again. Don't look up!! Just let me apologize for...for...what I said...I was just ... talking..."

Craig removed the oxygen mask.

"Get the hell out of my room before I call security."

William made it home. He was exhausted. He sat down on his couch and clicked on his television. He flipped through all of the channels three times. He could not believe how his life was changing. How could he be gay? How? He then immediately thought about his Uncle Wes. It bothered him to think that all the gay people in the world were victims of molestation. That was the only way to explain it. Nobody's born that way, he felt. They had to be abused by somebody to screw up their mind and make them gay!

"Damn you Uncle Wes! Damn YOU!!!!" he said as he finally turned off the television. He went deeper into his apartment to his room. He laid across his bed on his back staring at the ceiling. What now? What's next? What's next?

Cicely was shocked. She didn't

think that what she had said was so horrible that he would call security.

"What?...but...but...I'm your nurse. I've got to take care of you."

"No you don't. I want another nurse," Craig said firmly.

"But...but...I'm sorry, I didn't mean anything I said...I was just being me and speaking my mind." Cicely was usually a powerful woman who stands her ground. But when it came to her career, she would do anything to make it stable. She was let go from her last position because of her attitude and that mouth of hers. She was not about to let that happen again.

"So you didn't mean it when you called me a faggot?" Before Cicely could respond, the intercom announced that she was needed in ER.

"What...what...I never said that...I...I..." Just then, the door opened and it was nurse Green.

"Didn't I tell you not to come in here again! Didn't you hear them callin for you in ER?!"

"Yes...yes, Ma'am, yes ma'am," she responded with a confused look on her face, glaring at Craig. And she was gone. Craig just closed his eyes and smiled to himself.

Wes had found Silas unconscious on the floor. He was worried when he didn't answer him when he had called. He was familiar with the leasing office and got them to let him into Silas' apartment. He now sat in the waiting room as they had just wheeled Silas off to ER, still unconscious, but with a pulse. He reeked of alcohol. He laid there, barley breathing.

"Come on you. Don't leave us yet. Come on. Come back to us, baby," pleaded the doctor calmly.

"Where were you, nurse? We called for you. You were supposed to be here when I got here." Cicely rushed to put on her mask, taking the doctor's harsh words as a tremendous blow.

"I'm sorry doctor...I...I was..."

"No time for excuses. What are his vital signs?"

At that moment, there ceased to be any. The machine echoed that morbid tone of death: BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP!

"Come on now...Come back!!!!...Come on back, son," said the

doctor as he tried to revive Silas. After minutes of trying to resuscitate him, they found a pulse. He was breathing again. After a few more tests, they called him stable and moved him to a room. He was diagnosed as having alcohol poisoning, but was okay now. Cicely now had other things to consider. She went to sit alone in the cafeteria. She sat there almost in tears once again.

"Hey, you aite?"

"Oh...I didn't see you."

I'm...fine...I'm okay," she said

"My name is Wes, and you don't look okay."

"Well, I'm fine...just fine, Wes..."

Silas was finally conscious. Yet, he felt terrible. His head throbbed, his mouth was dry, his stomach nauseous, and his energy was barley holding on. He heard a knock at his door.

"Knock, knock...Hey baby...It's me nurse Green. How ya' doin', Craig?" she said. Silas heart jumped as he jerked up

"What?...Huh? What you just call me?"

"Oh my...you ain't my baby. I'm in the wrong room...I'm sorry baby, lay back down."

"Wait! Is there a Craig here?"

"Yeah, he came in yesterday. He must be next door. Sorry I bothered you." She was gone as quietly as she entered. Silas heart began to race and his mind turned. Could it be? Could it really be? He slowly tried to collect himself. He could barely move, but found the energy to get up. He inched his way to the door. He was out in the hall now. He walked down the hall to the very next door. He didn't knock. His heart would not stop pounding. He turned the latch and opened the door. There, sitting in the bed before him, was Craig. He had fallen asleep sitting up. Silas just stood there staring into Craig's face. He could not believe his eyes. He just couldn't believe it. Now they could finish what they started, thought Silas. But did Craig feel the same way?

Stay tuned...

-CM-

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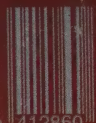
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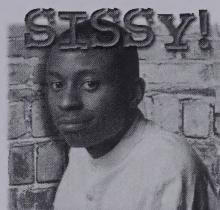
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SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Mild to moderate rash is a common side effect of SUSTIVA. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA, because birth defects have been seen in animals given SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA should not be taken by patients who are also taking any of the following: Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot derivatives as there is the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects.* See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



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References:

1. DPC Study 006, Sustiva/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. 2. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Dept of Health and Human Services; January 2000.

www.sustiva.com 1-800-4-PHARMA (1-800-474-2762)

Because Life Goes On



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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA: Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

- Talk to your doctor right away if you:
 - Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
 - Are breast-feeding
 - Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
 - Start or change any medicine
 - Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
 - Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to

go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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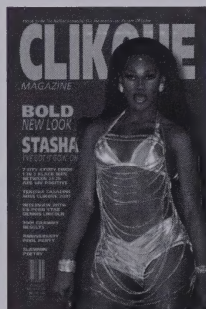
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HOW TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO CLIKQUE MAGAZINE?

Klikque Magazine™ is published monthly. We are known for featuring the works and talents of individuals all over the country. If you have something that you would like to see published, please submit it to our editorial department via email: editor@klikque.com. You can also send your submissions via mail to 931 Monroe Drive, Suite 102-279, Atlanta, Ge. 30308. We are also on the world wide web at www.klikque.com.

The Late Liz Marshall On A

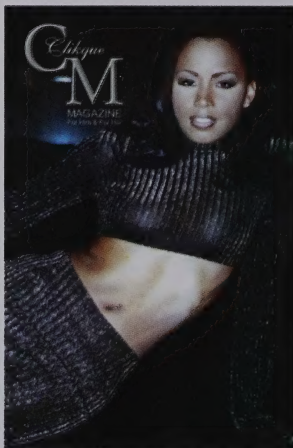
DEEPER LOVE

Reprinted From The Clique September 1999 Issue

Do you ever question your existence? So many times in life, I've dealt with family and friends pondering over the true meaning of life. For me, I think like so many other things that the answer is inevitably an individual journey. In pursuit of obtaining a better understanding of my purpose in life, I've studied myself. Through self-introspection, I have discovered my best attributes as well as my greatest weaknesses. I think that so much can be learned by looking inwardly as opposed to seeking constant reassurance and self-worth from others. The greatest accomplishment in living is learning to love yourself. Honey, if you don't love you and know who you are, there ain't too much you'll be available to offer to others. Find the deeper love before you jump in the shallow end and come up with a feeling of exuberance but nothing truly tangible. Always look up and within before you leap.

So much of life is founded on and relative to love. First, let's look at the foundations of the world, regardless of your belief I'm sure we can all agree that the creator formulated our existence through an act of love. If

not, let's say your mother loved you enough to carry you nine months and have you. OK, that should be enough for you to get the point. Love is the reason for your life; you would not be here if someone hadn't loved you to begin with. Then, we get here and forget the entire concept. Too entrenched in the problems



of life and other folks business to fathom the idea that without love, people perish. Love yourself before pondering the idealized relationship. He or she cannot love what you haven't bothered to cultivate within yourself. Don't allow anyone to make discoveries for you, discover yourself baby. There are so many of the "children" wandering around aimlessly these days, clad in

Versace, hiding behind Donna Karan that remain clueless about their own identity. In my brief thirty-one year old life, I have learned that loving myself prolongs my relationships, assists me in attaining my goals and gives me direction. I see too much shade in our communities, fighting amongst ourselves and entirely too much promiscuity. We need to evolve. If the deeper love I speak about were more prevalent and the search for meaning in our lives was more reverent, there would be less bullshit. If you're really trying to grasp the full concept of what I am expressing, this is a black gay pride message for you kids in "the family". We are on the brink of a new millennium and it's time to get real in every facet of our lives. Going forward is imperative and we can't move ahead without self-love propagating brotherly and sisterly love. Life is too short and the actualization as to what it's all about and what each of us has to do is too vital to our growth to overlook. Seek out the best in you and you'll find it in others. Without a deeper love, the same old superficial, unimaginative stuff will plague our lives and stagnate what could be. Peace, love and strength to you all! Make it happen.

—CM—

By: LIZ MARSHALL

In Sunday, December 3, 2000, Detroit nation and Clique staff writer Liz Marshall nade her transition back to the Lord. We miss and love you Liz.

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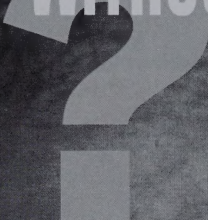
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CLIKQUE'S
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WHERE WOULD I BE WITHOUT YOU



EDITORIAL

Hip Hop Artist Ja Rule

EDITORIAL

By Dwight Powell, Publisher & Editor-In-Chief

Over the past few months, our office must have gotten 10,000 calls from loyal supporters seeking the whereabouts of their beloved Clique. Unfortunately, it took a little adversity for us to learn just how many of you enjoy Clique each month. Now that the magazine is back on schedule, I trust that you will continue to keep the lines of communication open. We would really like to continue hearing from you; even when all is well.

In a few months, we will be celebrating our 3rd anniversary. Although there have been, some trying moments, the great times far outweigh my least enjoyable experiences. And that is due mostly impart to you; the supporters of Clique Magazine. Over the years, so many of you have offered kind words of encouragement demanding that I continue to uplift, educate, and inform our brothers and sisters about various issues concerning us today.

While so many of you have thanked me for what it is that I do here at the magazine, I thank you even more. I thank you for

affording me the opportunity to express myself, my ideas and my creative talents through Clique Magazine. It would be extremely difficult to do this without an open and receptive audience. My friends and others that know me, know that I enjoy producing Clique. So the statement,"



Where Would I Be Without You", isn't intended for my boy Derrick this time, but instead for you, the subscribers, readers and supporters of Clique Magazine.

As long as you continue to stay in my corner, I will continue to serve you and our SGL community. Like Ja Rule said," When you need me, if you want me to put it on you (I will). Because I love you, and don't you forget it."

I don't know where I would be without you, but I am thrilled that I'm not there. I'm here, with you.

Thanks again for your support. Love always.

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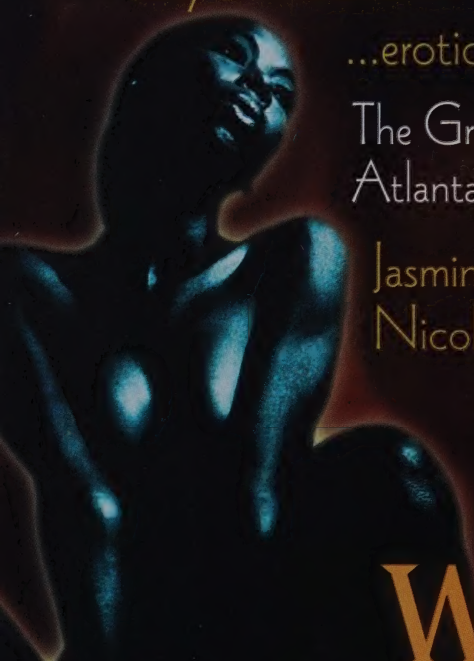
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From The Brown

BAGS TO B-BOYZ

The Politics Of Passing

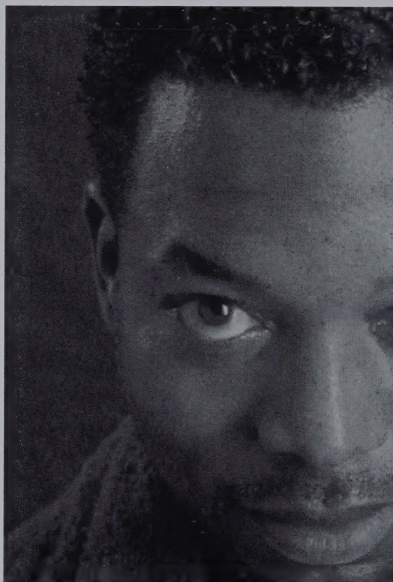
In the final chapter of his national bestseller, *Our Kind of People*, author/ethnographer Lawrence Otis Graham tells the story of several individuals, past and present, living in this country and 'passing' as white.

This past Labor Day, I found myself in Atlanta hanging out with an acquaintance of mine who'd brought his best friend (a straight, Black womyn) to perennial dance den The Palace to 'come out' to her. Introducing her to "The Life", he lined up four men (which included me) and gave her a crash course in Black Male Homosociology.

"This one," he began, pointing to the far left. "Is a femme queen. She wears this and does that and so forth. No one wants her." He proceeded to lecture us on each man in the line, and how we became progressively "straighter" and more desirable as he made his way to the other end. "And this," he gasped at the boy at the end. "This is trade! This is what everyone wants! Girl, you could pass him on the street and you wouldn't even know [he is Gay]!"

It appears that we have inherited, in our Post

Traumatic Slave Disorder, not only a color complex, but all the heterosexist insecurities of eurocentric patriarchy. Our twisted obsession with 'passing,' stowed away in the baggage of



our Middle Passage, now infests our new house of identity—our sexuality.

Across the country, Black Men's fixation with it's masculinity has reached fever pitch. The newest phalanx of patriarchal pawns are led by shirtless and stylishly ignorant Ruff Ryders and Cash Money Millionaires, who use lyrical litanies of their ghetto pedigree to authenticate their claims of being "real niggas". The last time I touched myself, I felt real

to me. However, many of us who are Black and Gay, succumbing to an ever-present paranoia over our own manhood, have raced to purchase machismo's latest accessories, from uncomfortable clothes to music that disparages our very sexuality. In our attempts to ingratiate ourselves to those who often disapprove of what we do, we have begun to distance ourselves from those who already Love us for who we are. In trying to be 'down', we have sunken to the lowest levels of self-hate.

It's funny how the careers of the Black Men who publicly cultivate and play up our private differences are being subsidized by people who are neither Black or Gay (like the board of directors of Interscop/A&M/Geffen Records, who distribute Ruff Ryders recordings, and the millions of straight,

pale suburbanites who guaranty their platinum positions). It's even funnier that this same type of divisive infighting has been encouraged in the past by outsiders attempting to divide us Africans in America and dilute our power. What is not funny is that many of us who are both Black and Gay do not see that connection, and many of us who do see the connection feel our public profiles make speaking out a precarious proposition (I'm guilty of that last one myself).

Being able to 'pass' brings about other not-so-new challenges in same gender loving relations, like tokenism. Yesterday's: "You're not like the others." approbation from whites has become today's: "When I look at you, I don't see someone who is gay." compliment from heterosexuals. In case you are still confused, neither is truly a compliment. But don't try to convince those who aspire desperately to "keep their shit on the DL" of that fact.

Perhaps, one day, weekly 'trade shows' like the one Fridays at Atlanta's (Con)Fusion and romantic calls for "a real (translation: masculine) brotha" will seem as antiquated and grotesque as black face burlesques and skin lightening cream. Perhaps, one day, we won't, as individuals, hold close

in the dark those who will not hold us in the light. Perhaps, one day soon, femininity will even be fashionable.

Sound far fetched? Growing up as a dark skinned Afrikan in America in the 1980s, I never imagined the day I would be in vogue. These days, many men "love" them some chocolate brothas", but such has not always been the case. Burning your hair with relaxer and spending summers in the shade was as unamusing for some then as wearing jeans three sizes too big and spending nights holding up walls on the hip-hop side of a club is for others now.

Hopefully, when femininity does have it's day, it won't be at the expense of masculinity, or anything else. Hopefully, no one will feel pressured to change their

character with their clothes. Hopefully, it will not once again take an outsider's affirmation to stimulate our community's acceptance of its(whole)self, the way Ralph Lauren's 'discovery' of model Tyson Beckford made us suddenly realize in the early 90s that "(Dark) Black is Beautiful".

But, in the final analysis, how we mature- as individual men and as a community- will be determined by how we choose to see ourselves and how we allow others to see us. I'm certain this path is easier written than walked. As E. E. Cummings reminds us, "It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are."

-CM-

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Contestant
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from Atlanta, Ga



Contestant
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from Atlanta, Ga



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America 2000
Teryl-Lynn Foxx

Tenisha
Being
Crowned By
Teryl-Lynn



MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA 2000 FINAL RESULTS

Miss Klikque America 2001 Results

2nd alt.: Jasmine Bonet, Atlanta
1st alt.: Necole Luv Dupree, Atlanta
Winner: Tenisha Casadine, Memphis

2000 Lifetime Achievement Recipient: Lady Fabian Sanchez

CATEGORY WINNERS

Best Interview: (Ms.) Necole Luv Dupree
Best Presentation: (Ms.) Tenisha Casadine
Best Talent: (Ms.) Tenisha Casadine
Best Eveningwear: (Ms.) Jasmine Bonet

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SEE PAGES 38-39
FOR MORE ON OUR
QUEEN



Contestant
from Dallas, TX



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from Atlanta, Ga



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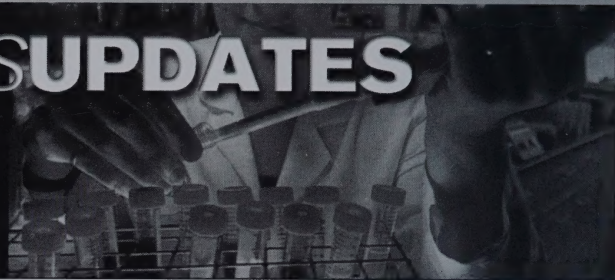
Entertainment By Clikque Emeritus
Tamisha Iman



Entertainment By
Raquel Lord

HIV/AIDS UPDATES

Clikque Magazine



Dateline: February 26, 2001; Dallas, Texas. African American men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) whether one is gay, bisexual, getting their "freak on" or just "messing around" are at a historical point in our existence in this country. The decisions we make and the actions that we take, over the next four years, will determine whether or not we shall continue as a body of people (in any significant numbers) in this nation. Oftentimes some of my colleagues and critics have accused me of being too alarmist regarding my concerns about the HIV epidemic and it's impact on African American MSM. On January 9, 2001, at the 8th Annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, my alarms were vindicated. It was on that day, at that conference (at which I was in attendance), that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released preliminary data from a study that was conducted in seven major cities (Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle) called the Young Men's Study (YMS) that may just be the sound of the "death knell" for African American MSM.

EXTINCTION OR REVOLUTION

The purpose of the study was to determine the prevalence of HIV, Hepatitis B (HVB) and syphilis infection among young

MSM and risks that these individuals had subjected themselves to that had led to such infections. The study was done in two phases. Phase 1 surveyed 15 to 22 year old MSM between 1994 and 1995; Phase 2 surveyed 23 to 29 year old MSM from 1998 to 2000. The initial findings, released for the Dallas area, sent shockwaves through the conference.

The Phase 2 findings showed African Americans, in the Dallas area, with an HIV infection rate of 32%, HBV infection rate of 35% and a syphilis infection rate of 9%. The HIV infection rate among young African American MSM was nearly three times that of their white counterparts. The HBV infection rate was nearly twice that of young Anglo MSM and the syphilis rate was almost nine (9) times that of whites in the same sampling group.

Simply put, one out of three African American gay, bisexual and MSM young men, between the ages of 23 to 29 was infected with HIV (one out of three)!

I will not be shy about the implications of these numbers, their being correct, we are facing nothing short of a holocaust, and the eventual extinction of African American gay and bisexual men as a distinct body of people within society. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to figure this out. If we extrapolate these numbers out over time, without effective intervention, HIV infection rates, within varying segments of the African American MSM community could, conceivably, reach 70 to 80 percent. We are facing nothing less than our impending doom as a body of people if we

Seven City Study Found

1 OF 3 YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

that are gay or bisexual between the ages of 23 to 29 are infected with HIV

do not take accountability and responsibility for stopping this epidemic in its tracks.

There are some additional findings within the YMS report that are not only interesting but also quite relevant to our development of effective interventions to halt this "death march" by young African American MSM. **97% of the study participants reported having had anal sex with a man. Of that number 52% reported having had unprotected anal sex within the last six months. Those having unprotected insertive sex were 41% and those having unprotected receptive sex were 38%. The education levels of those in the study were as follows: High School graduates 19%; some college 34%; college degree or higher 40%. These were not ignorant semi-literate "morons". 84% of the study participants were employed full-time. These were not street hustlers looking for a quick date and a hit of crack. One of the findings**

was that many participants perceived themselves at "low risk" for HIV infection and gave that as the reason for not getting tested. The majority of participants reported being very aware of the methodology of HIV transmission. The use of drugs and alcohol by the participants apparently influenced their sexual risk taking. More than half (57%) of the participants reported being "buzzed" on alcohol during sex within the past six months. 96% reported using alcohol, 57% marijuana, 39% cocaine and 40% poppers/nitrates. The marriage between being gay and substance use continues.

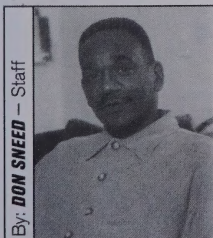
In total, the report was nothing short of tragic. Dallas is not alone in this heightened crisis. Preliminary data from New York City indicates that the HIV infection rate among African American MSM in that city will be reported at 34%. The study was not conducted in Atlanta; however, one can only imagine what the grim figures would be from there. I can only conclude that we must either continue to apace with this self inflicted "death march" (or could it be a

death wish) or we must engage in a massive, community by community revolution in our thinking, feeling and actions. Anything short of such a revolution will not be enough.

On February 21st a town-hall meeting was held in Dallas to discuss the findings of the YMS report, what prevention service providers are doing and what we could do better. No definitive solutions came forth except for my call for a revolution within the African American gay, bisexual and MSM community. During the Retrovirus Conference I had an opportunity to interview Dr. Helene Gayle, Director of the CDC's HIV/STD Division. She is keenly aware of the study's findings and committed to helping our community address the crisis. We both agreed that in the face of this unrelenting epidemic we must be creative in devising new strategies to impact the African American MSM community.

Some thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how to do that in next month's column. Until then not only stay safe but also stay alive.

—CM—



By: DON SNEED — Staff

Want More Information On This Topic?

HIV/AIDS Editor Don Sneed is the Director at Renaissance III, a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS. If you would like additional information on this topic, Don can be reached via email at donsneed@clique.com Other: www.cdc.com, www.cnn.com/health.html

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Our

The

MEAT MARKET

Will That Be Pickup or Delivery ?

Dear Diary,

I am reminiscent of the times when I first started going to the clubs. I can recall learning a great deal. Life unquestionably dealt me plenty of unique cards during those years back then. After learning such things as

received "last week", keeping up with the town's seasonal functions (which brought many people into town), and just plain finding something to wear -- kept me busy and at that times made me one content person. After awhile, I made plenty of friends, learned some

honors" to making dates with whom I thought would be potential mates for the future. HA !! That is a joke now that I think about it. Later, with the onset of STD's on the rise, I decided to chill and pull myself together (as one of my friends would say). Diary, I have to say



Photo: TRAXX Nightclub in Atlanta by Dwight Powell

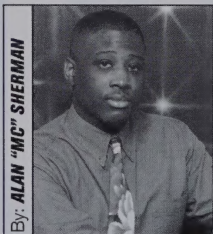
what "clubnight" meant, keeping up with the constant change of House Music, learning the different dance steps, remembering the names I'd

dance steps & stayed out all night long as if tomorrow had no boundaries of anything that really mattered. The club was truly indeed a MEAT MARKET to say the least, but, primarily, I would not indulge.

The times that I went partying at first were exclusively for mingling purposes — I must admit. I, then, "graduated with

that at the present, although club life can be enticing, it definitely has downplayed itself in my life today.

The club, however, is still an interesting subject to digress upon. In what was once MY LIFE, I have to admit that today the reasons for going to the club have not changed in most peoples' minds. In my opinion, people visit the



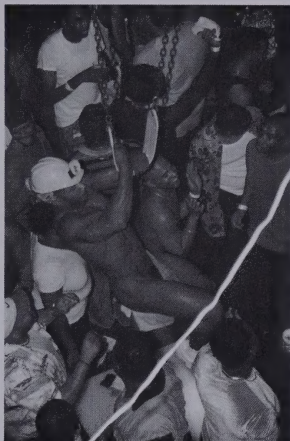
By: ALAN "MC" SHERMAN

Alan "MC" Sherman, 29, resident of Atlanta, is a journalist & freelance writer. He started writing at the age of seven from which he wrote a series of little short stories & poems. He is the author of three editorial compositions published in Reader's Digest along with a impending essay in Essence Magazine. Being fascinated by words and their origins, Alan currently adds to his writing accolades, two poems published in The National Library of Poetry. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Journalism from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Alan can be reached at alansherman@clique.com.

clubs because they are either bored, lonely, sociable, horny, like to dance, like to drink or simply they go "to the club to rub". I do not listen nor care what anyone says or thinks when they state that they only go just to have a good time. "Wanted" sex is in the music, in the clothes, in the air, in the cologne and on the dance floor. I am not saying you must give in and touch after looking, but it is tough at times. Whether you go to meet someone or just to have fun, there is an aura of expectation in the air. Of course, you hope you meet someone. Everyone secretly does. We all want to be noticed and what better way to be noticed than that of all places : Club Meat Market.

Just think for a moment of what the club entails. From the time you park your car or say, "so long" to M.A.R.T.A., you see immaculate men hovering in the entranceway. Well-toned physiques, neatly shaven faces and heads, crispy starched matching outfits (for some, ensembles) with a small pinch of Brooks Brother's cologne leads the way of what is to behold inside. From the time the club is entered, walking in gently is pretty much a smart option. Scoping out the mix is the first order of business. To your amazement and to your left, you see a man that can truly be called "Prime Cut USDA" beef waiting to be sliced and savored. Okay, the men on your right have great bodies, too and can be called "Bird, Yams, Sausage, T-bone & Ox". You envision your (bed), oops plate in the middle of the dance floor indulging yourself to no end. You envision all the trimmings, as well. You really HAM it up when you see 5lbs of flesh heading your way only to bypass you for their boyfriend the SALAMI coming from the bathroom. All sorts of men are in the room including the ones you would rather not talk to because of all the TURKEY they are talking, but then again this is normal for Club Meat Market. How is that for food for thought.

Now, that the room has been scoped, you see people with whom relations have already transpired and of those that you are "working" on. You also see the twelve types of people EVERY club



has & are as following:

1. "TC" Men = those men who feel to be "Too Cute" to ever approach anyone let alone bring their noses down for a reality check. Trust me, by the end of the night most become "easy" like Sunday morning.

2. "Summa" Men = those men who thrive to wear clothes that tease. You eventually see "some of" this & "some of" that; for example, Overalls with only one strap fastened & entirely nothing on underneath.

3. "Fame" Men = those men who feel they are auditioning for FAME. They seem to lose 5 lbs. just from one song. I have to admit they are entertaining to watch.

4. "Muscle" Men = so called Butch men who have seemingly borrowed their clothes from their sister's doll, but at the same time their bodies ARE still good to look at.

5. "Vulture" Men = those men who specifically swoop down to prey on the men who are involved in relationships. You know who you are. Stop it !!

6. "Insurance Agent" Men = those who are ready, able & willing to give out a name card or business card already printed for future "conversation".

7. "Dirty Dancing" Men = those men who really get jiggy with it by acting like Stevie Wonder feeling on one's body during a slow or favorite song.

8. "Wallflower" Men = those men who simply adore holding the wall

up for fear that the wall will fall. I guess there is nothing wrong in sight seeing.

9. "Noseless" Men = those men who apply way too much cologne because obviously their noses can not smell it. Just a tip: No cologne is better than too much.

10. "AA" Men = those men who are constantly at the bar or smoking something too much the whole night and will almost do anything when you meet them because they are too intoxicated or high to think straight.

11. "Bookbag Battery" Men = those men who wear a bookbag to the club. Nothing says, "I'm EverReady!" more than going out with a change of clothes along with a toothbrush, deodorant, comb, & towel.

12. "DragQueens" = this is a given!!

Clubs that pose as meat markets are always jumping and will always have leftovers for those that missed out the week before. To the avid club attendee, after visitations to the parks, bath houses, sex clubs, internet personals & chat rooms, house parties, gyms and (sad to say) the illegal public places, Club Meat Market is by far the only proven safe standby if common sense is used. Here is a little advice. If you are searching too hard, you are going to be disappointed. Stop looking for love. It does not work that way. Focus on your self-improvement. Extend yourself to others. Present the best person inside yourself that you can to those you encounter. Love will find you.

Remember, meat markets have been around for years and they have no immediate need to stop their success. The only thing a good decision makes for in this situation is whether you will succumb to the derogatory suggestions that a meat market portrays. The last time you were there, were you easy to meet OR "easy" meat? The next time you are in a club & someone shamelessly asks, "have we slept together?", you know you are in the right place. Your only decision now is will it be "for here or to go".

Good Night Diary!!

—CM—

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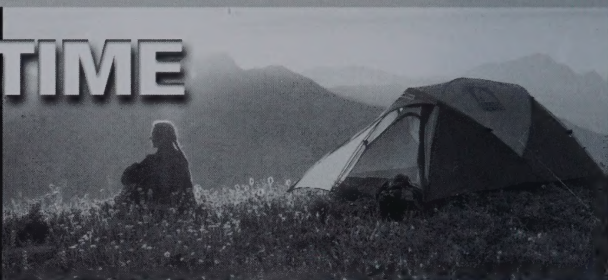
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POETRY TIME

Clikque Magazine



i'm tryin' to tell you *anonymous*

None of the other loves you've ever had before can prepare you for the passions boiling over inside of me. I wonder if you're ready for the unimaginable lust that I could unleash on your body, unleash on your soul. No other touch of the hand will burn and sear your flesh like mine as it casually makes its way down your muscular neck, across your nipples, even further down your seductive ab's and linger by your waistline. No other drugs addiction can draw you to the deep-

est throws of insanity like the feel of my warm, soft, succulent lips as they kiss your belly button. Boy, i'm tryin' to tell you that no hunger grips your stomach like the hunger your every fiber of being will feel when you leave my embrace. you don't know much about longing until you've loved me.

No nectar could be sweeter than the sweat that beads over my body and slowly rolls into my valleys, collecting into a pool waiting for your tongue. No thirst will compare to what you will feel when I pull you away from my nipples. Pain, such excruciating,

intoxicating, exquisite pain you will feel when i use only my tongue on your spine. No device exists that can measure the heat that will bubble in your belly when we combine and melt within each other. ohhhh-hh!!!!.....no relationship you've ever taken part in will consume you like I will. I am that dream at night that makes you feverish and perspire. I am the reason your manhood stands attentive in the morning. I'm tryin' to tell you, I am the taste that you can't quite put your finger on. That taste that you hunger for. It's me.

—CM—

Buffed. Bold. Beautiful.

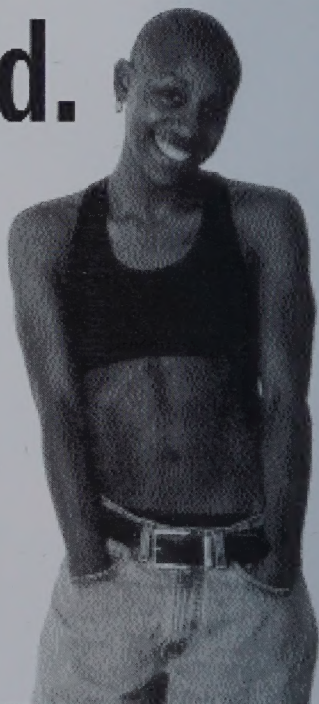
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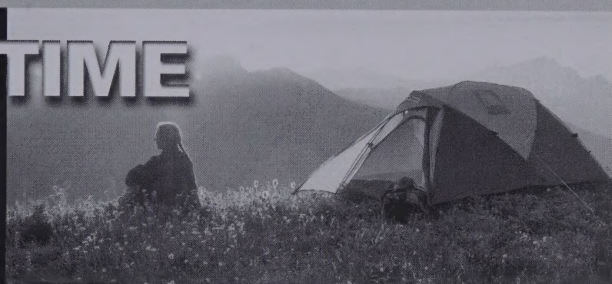
The first name and the last word in gay travel guides for 35 years



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

POETRY TIME

Clikque Magazine



I cry

(for the lost ones)

I cry at homecomings, at make ups,
at good byes, at mothers love for a
child, at fathers bouncing children
on their knees, at friends caring for
one another.

I cry at the loss of love, at the loss of
loved ones, at the loss of loved ones
from AIDS, I cry because AIDS has
killed so many of my friends,
because one day AIDS may claim
my life too.

I cry at the founding of freedom...I
mean real freedom, at the forgiving,
at the forgetting, at the remembering,
at even the reminding.

I cry when I think of, BG, Jay, Willie,
Jeff, Dwayne, Frank, and more,
whose lives were claimed by AIDS,
Thank God they touched my life.

I cry when I think of Darrell Kevin
Williams, of David Dior, whose lives
were brutally ended from senseless
violent killings, thank God they gave
to me and my life.

I cry at new beginnings, at old end-
ings, at sad movies, at love stories, at
found courage, at lost fears. I cry. I
shed tears.

I cry for old wounds, for new endeav-
ors, for feelings swooned, for mem-

ories remembered.

I cry at wind blows, at lettings goes,
at touchy moments, at loves senti-
ments, at stories told, taking hold.
Thank God, Tears uplift the spiritual
condition of my soul

I CRY...

needing

My heart is trapped in the confines
of time, & my soul is numb from the
longing. I reap the scars of abandon-
ment, Marks you left, Having never
came.

My days are empty and I chase long
forgotten monkeys, offering-up my
back once more.

Shadows cover the land as my eyes
grow weary from seeking, Hungry
from not finding.

Theaters, stores, museums, book
stores, even dark parks offer no res-
olutions.

Romeo...oh Romeo, where forth...iz U
B mah brotha, Climb the bannister of
my heart & free me from my con-
fines, Pierce the numbness of my
soul and free-up my longing. Kiss
away the scars & release me from
my monkeys. Fill my hungry soul
with you, & Lay beside me, Until I'm
Needing no more.

"siempre"

My nights are restless since you've
left, As dark tides ebb the shores of
Maracus Bay, Rushing in like naked

nymphs, Understanding my needs, &
leaving a slight trace of white lace,
Which I will use as in mourning. As
the waters rushes back to its begin-
ning,

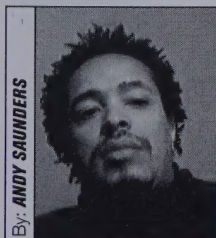
A shore where on
Ash Wednesdays,
Under Rays of Light,
Poured down from Ra,
Revelers go to be reborn,
Offering-up sacrifice & dance,
To Chinese Laundry & Atlantik, And...
At nights Fall Lovers recapture each
others passion Under moonlight &
bonfires.

Red nights long,
Gray mornings pass short,
Now I too am standing in
Rays of Light, under a dark moon
sky, Wanting to be reborn...
Wanting back my reveler...
Wanting to cook a sacrificial meal...
Wanting the slow dance of our con-
versations...

Wanting to take you again by moon-
light, (& let out love making paint the
sheets, a homage to Picasso),
By moonlight,
And be your bonfire.

But now,
Morning will be here soon,
& perhaps...
In the few short hours 'till Dawn...
I will sleep...and dream...

Of...
Dark tides...
Maracus Bay...
& You...
My reveler...
Under moonlight & bonfires...
Hasta entonces,
Buenos noches, mi amor secrete...
para siempre jamas!



By: ANDY SAUNDERS

Want More Information On This Topic?

If you would like to have your poetry published in Clique Magazine, please send it via email to editor@clikque.com. By doing this, you are giving us authority and permission to publish and or edit your submissions. We do not accept materials that have already been published. Thank You.

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WRAP-UP

43rd GRAMMYS Celebration Is In The Books

A spectacular night and 100 award categories celebrate music's diversity

The 43rd Annual GRAMMY Awards began by adding two categories (to make a full 100) last year, grew controversial by nominating rapper Eminem in the Album Of The Year category in January, and ended Wednesday night by bringing the celebration of diverse musical genres to TV's most spectacular evening of music.

When all was said and done, Eminem's contentious performance with Elton John was notable only for the depth of its expression and the teamwork of two different generations of stars. Steely Dan had an amazingly validating night, as the veteran duo took three GRAMMYS (their first ever), including the coveted Album Of The Year award.

Eminem still made his presence felt with two wins in rap categories. His producer and mentor, Dr. Dre, also earned the Producer Of The Year award.

Country singer Faith Hill, who enjoyed a tremendously fruitful

year at a time when the growth of country music has stalled somewhat, won three GRAMMYS, including Best Country Album, cementing her position as the hottest voice (and face) on the Nashville scene.



U2 also made a big splash at the show, a feat made all the more impressive because their album, *All That You Can't Leave Behind*, didn't fall into the eligibility period. On the strength of the dynamic track "Beautiful Day," the band earned three GRAMMYS, including Record Of The Year and Song Of The Year.

While last year, the Best New Artist award went to a 19 year-old newcomer named Christina Aguilera, this year the trophy was taken by a journeyman who literal-

ly reinvented herself with her latest album. The emotive singer Shelby Lynne also had the opportunity to perform with GRAMMY staple Sheryl Crow on the telecast.

The show also highlighted pianist Marc-André Hamelin, who no doubt won some new converts with his dextrous playing, despite failing to win a GRAMMY. Dolly Parton, performing with another Best New Artist nominee, Brad Paisley, brought her current return to bluegrass to the audience.

And Madonna, who opened the show just as she did the 41st GRAMMYS, brought a party atmosphere to the festivities right from the start. Unlike two years ago, when she opened with a slower song and more stately performance, her "Music" was highlighted by acrobatic dance moves and a loudly decorated limousine piloted by young rapper Lil' Bow Wow.

Other multiple winners included blues giant B.B. King, R&B singer D'Angelo, rockers Foo Fighters and the genre-hopping Béla Fleck.

Despite a month's worth of talk and debate over the GRAMMYS' purported celebration of hateful lyrics, the show proved, as it always does, that rather than divide and estrange people, music brings different segments of society together, even if for one night, in harmony and celebration.

—CM—

43RD GRAMMY AWARDS

RESULTS

RECORD OF THE YEAR

Beautiful Day, U2

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Two Against Nature, Steely Dan

SONG OF THE YEAR

Beautiful Day, U2

BEST NEW ARTIST

Shelby Lynne

BEST FEMALE POP VOCAL PERFORMANCE

I Try, Macy Gray

BEST DANCE RECORDING

Who Let The Dogs Out
Baha Men

BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM

Two Against Nature, Steely Dan

BEST FEMALE R&B VOCAL PERFORMANCE

He Wasn't Man Enough
Toni Braxton



BEST MALE R&B VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Untitled, D'Angelo

BEST R&B PERFORMANCE BY A DUO OR GROUP WITH VOCAL

Say My Name, Destiny's Child

BEST R&B SONG

Say My Name
(Destiny's Child)



BEST R&B ALBUM

Voodoo, D'Angelo

BEST TRADITIONAL R&B VOCAL ALBUM

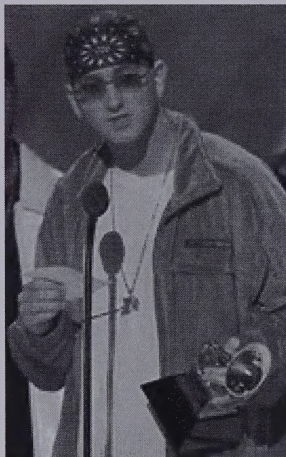
Ear-Resistible, The Temptations

BEST RAP SOLO PERFORMANCE

The Real Slim Shady, Eminem

BEST RAP PERFORMANCE BY A DUO OR GROUP

Forgot About Dre, Dr. Dre
Featuring Eminem



BEST RAP ALBUM

The Marshall Mathers LP,
Eminem

BEST TRADITIONAL SOUL GOSPEL ALBUM

You Can Make It, Shirley Caesar

BEST CONTEMPORARY SOUL GOSPEL ALBUM

Thankful, Mary Mary

BEST REGGAE ALBUM

Art And Life, Beenie Man

BEST SPOKEN WORD ALBUM

The Measure Of A Man,
Sidney Poitier

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR,

Non-Classical
Dr. Dre

Want More Information On This Topic?

This is only a partial list of all the awards that were presented at the Grammys this year. If you would like to see the full list of 100 winners and nominees, visit www.grammys.com

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Atlanta

GAY & LESBIAN CTR.

Attempts To Attract More African Americans To The Center

Welcome to the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center. If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, same-gender-loving, two-spirited, questioning or supportive of these communities then we are here for you. Since we opened our doors in 1976, we have provided a safe space and services for lgbt people in Atlanta and surrounding areas.

HOME FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

We are indeed a community center. We provide support and space for organizations and discussion groups to meet. We also host social and cultural events and activities for people to meet and have a good time in a safe environment.

HIV/STD TESTING CLINIC

Our Clinic is the only local testing site that is open during evening hours Monday through Friday 5:30PM to 9PM. We offer anonymous HIV testing with pre- and post-test counseling; testing for syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia; and screening and vaccines for Hepatitis A and B.

THE HELPLINE

Its 404-525-HELP. We provide emergency assistance, resource info and a place to be heard. Due to a shortage of volunteers, the Helpline is staffed from 5:30PM to 9PM on

Thursday evenings only. We are recruiting more volunteers so that we can expand these hours in the near future. Calls recorded with contact info will be answered as soon as possible.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Center hosts several facilitated discussion groups which provide opportunities for social and spiritual bonding, information-sharing and support. We currently feature 3 groups and we will be adding more in the near future.

WOMEN'S GROUP

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

7PM @the Center

MEN'S GROUP

Every Thursday

7PM @the Center

20-SOMETHING GROUP

1st Sunday 6:30PM

@ Innvox Lounge

699 Ponce de Leon

THE LIBRARY

With over 2000 volumes, the AGLC Library is the largest library devoted to lgbt subject matter in the Southeast. Use of the Library and book check-out are free. Contact us for more info on operating hours.

A PLACE TO SERVE

We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers! We encourage you to consider the Center as a means by which you can be of service to others in your community. Our programs and services depend on the participation of people like you who are willing to give of themselves so that they may help others. Here are some areas where you can help make a big difference through the Center. Orientation and training will be provided by the Center.

- Library assistants
- Helpline counselors
- Clinic counselors and receptionists
- Outreach/Publicity
- Spruce-Up Work

WHERE WE'RE AT

The Center is located at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd on the 6th Fl, that's downtown Atlanta on Ralph McGill Blvd and Piedmont, across from the Civic Center. It's a short walk from the Civic Center MARTA station and several bus routes. To reach our parking lot drive up Piedmont and turn left into the lot before you reach Ralph McGill Blvd. Walk outside the lot and around the corner to enter the front of the building. Otherwise parking is usually available in the lot right across Ralph McGill Blvd from us.

CENTER HOURS

2:00PM - 9:00PM

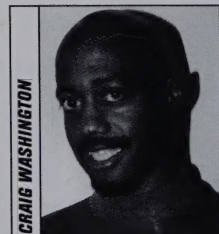
Monday through Friday

CLINIC HOURS

5:30PM - 9:00PM

Monday - Thursday

Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center
Craig Washington
Executive Director
159 RALPH MCGILL BLVD
Suite 600
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-523-7500
404-525-4357 (Fax)
404-525-HELP (Helpline)
e-mail
atlantaglc@mindspring.com
website www.aglc.org



CRAIG WASHINGTON

Want More Information On This Topic?

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Clique Staff writer, Craig Washington as new Executive Director of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center.

Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.
1150 Griswold, Ste. 1700 • Detroit, MI 48226 • 313-964-4601

Information Education Insight Knowledge

MOC

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.



In Focus

CLUB LIFE

Popular Atlanta Hotspot Changes It's Name & Clientele

Formally the Otherside, Club Rarity has been an Atlanta staple for the past 10 years. Like TRAXX and The Palace, this club boast the most loyal clientele in the city, and probably the country.

Beverly Johnson, the club's owner recalls that when she and her partner initially opened The Otherside, they had envisioned an upscale club catering to both a male and female clientele. However, over the years, The Otherside became known primarily as a hotspot for lesbians and their gay friends.

For the past few years, the club began experiencing a dramatic shift from a female dominate venue to a boy club and Hump Wednesday nights in Atlanta belonged to the Otherside. Competing club promoters came and went, came and went, came and went. No

other club in the city could come close to capturing the FLAVA that the Otherside had managed to acquire over the years. The Club became a hub where everyone came together. From your everyday party seekers to other club promoters this is def-

initely the place to be. For years the club offered the most

Now ten years later, Club Rarity has evolved into a full fledge boy club. The "ladies" are also welcomed. Beverly had made many updates and continues to upgrade the facility. Party goers have the option of relaxing on the huge covered patio as the wind presses against their faces or indulged themselves in one of the club's three lavish, quint lounges. The lounges are soo con-formable, for a brief moment, you might think your at home. Be careful not to fall asleep on any of the club's choozie, relaxing leather sofas.

The Rarity, now opened 7 days a week begins pouring at 4 for



New Name, Same Great Time

relaxed atmosphere and the best Damn Hip-Hop night in the South. Everyone knows that all holiday weekends begins on Wednesdays in Atlanta. Standing room only is the order of the day.

happyhour (M-F). This is the perfect spot to toss your hat, loosen your tie and through your feet up after a hard days work. Oh, don't forget to order a cold one.

—CM—

Want More Information? On This Topic?

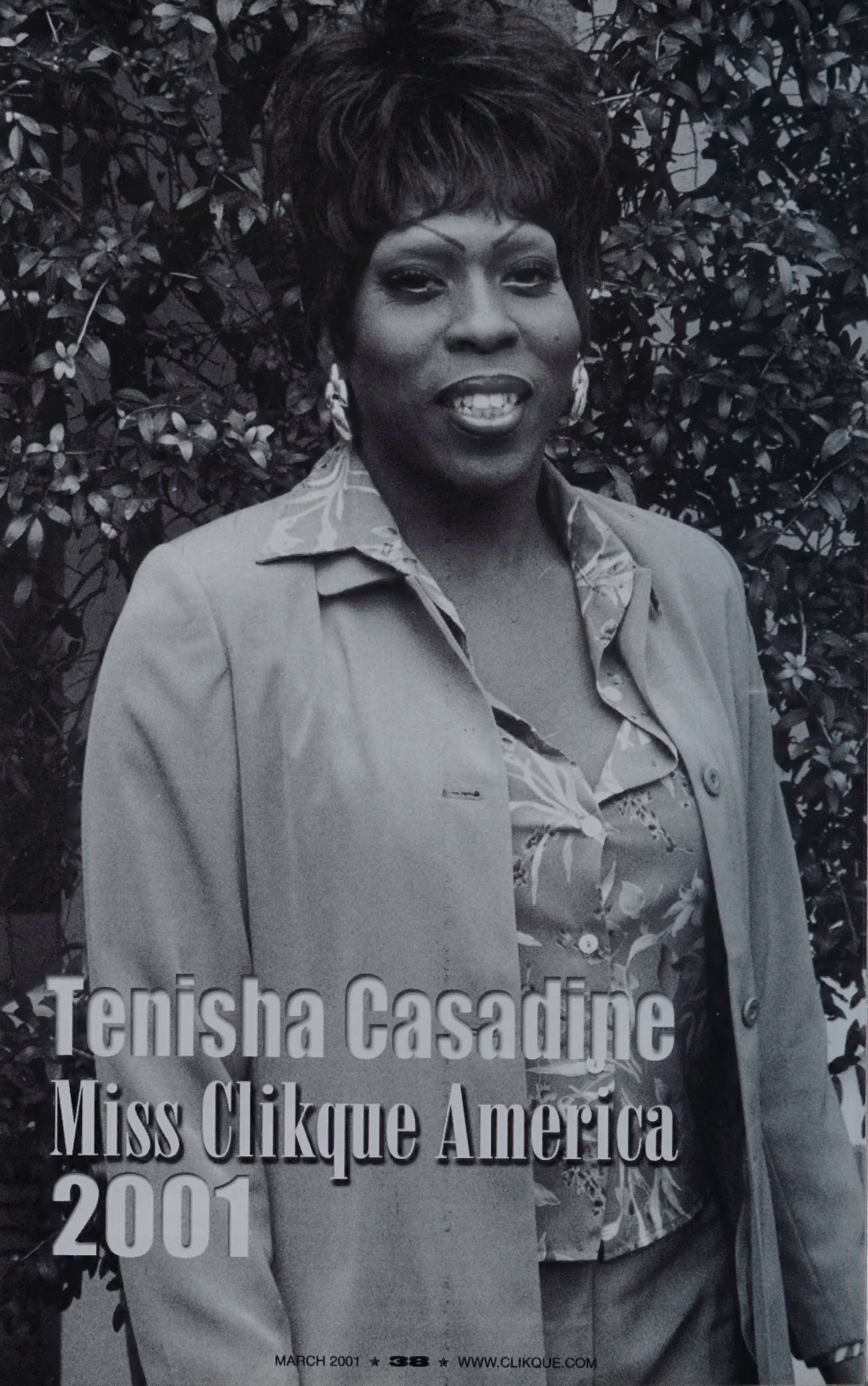
If you would like to get information on other clubs around the country, please refer to pages 58 and 59 for an extensive list of clubs. You can also visit www.chocolatecityusa.com for a list of nightclubs.

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Tenisha Casadine
Miss Klikque America
2001

Born September 16, 1968 under the astrological sign of Virgo, Tenisha Casadine, a 32 year-old Diva is Miss Clikque America. As a young child, there is one thing that Tenisha remembers her mother always saying, "It doesn't matter what you are, as long as you're good at it!"

At a very young age, seventeen to be exact, Tenisha began a career as a female illusionist. Tenisha recalls it all starting as a dare of sorts. "It happened by accident", says Tenisha.

While in cosmetology school, there were personality contests, in which everyone would lipsink. Tenisha remembered how easy she thought it looked. She began to practice Larry Graham's, "One in a Million", for the next show. Well, show day had now come and Tenisha was ready. When she arrived at school one of her colleagues offered to do her hair and make-up. Tenisha was puzzled. "Hair and make-up? No, I won't be needing all that." Later in the day another colleague brought over a dress. "Here! You should wear this!" he said. "No! I'm not wearing a dress!" Tenisha exclaimed. To Tenisha's dismay, the girl she saw lipsinking in the contest the week prior, was in fact a boy. This really threw her for a loop! Well, show time was now here and when all was said and done Tenisha Casadine was the winner of the competition, hair, make-up, dress and all. This accomplishment gave Tenisha the drive and inspiration she needed to go on and compete in other contests and pageants.

Over the course of the past fifteen years, Miss Casadine, has managed to become the victor of nineteen titles and one national title. After winning the title **Miss Clikque Memphis**, Tenisha was afforded the opportunity to represent the state of Tennessee in the **Miss Clikque America 2000** Pageant. Although, she was not victorious in claiming the title that year, Tenisha was not deterred.

Perseverance, stamina, hard work, and the will of God led her to **Miss Clikque Tupelo**; where she claimed that title to again compete at the 2001 finals, held in Atlanta, this past January. The most prepared contestant of the evening, from start to finish, Miss Casadine sparked! It was evident that Tenisha had no plans on leaving without the crown, this year.

Along with Tenisha's many accomplishments in the pageant scene, she also plays a great role in Memphis's gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered community. When time permits, Tenisha serves as a volunteer to different local organizations. **Friends for Life** is one of the organizations that Miss Casadine is an active volunteer. Whenever and wherever Tenisha can lend a helping hand, she does. From benefit shows, to outreach programs, to educating our youth on AIDS and its devastating effects. It's hard to believe that one individual can have so much to give, but Tenisha Casadine has proven to be that individual. When asked, how she would use her monthly column, Tenisha responded, "To educate the community, especially today's youth, on HIV/AIDS, acceptance of others, and self love." Advice that she gives to any and everyone is to go out and get what you want. It's not going to come to you! The only way we can achieve anything is through prayer and faith in God! Other words of advice, "Don't throw stones, as long as you live in a glass houses."

When asked about the people that she admires the most, Tenisha listed **Niesha Dupree, Paula Sinclair, and Santana Summers**. "They endure it all. They didn't give up when times got hard", she said. Tenisha also recognizes **Lady Peaches** for paving the way for

her in Memphis.

Sincere Thanks From Miss Clikque America 2001



First I'd like to say thanks to the almighty God for giving me the strength and knowledge that was required to endure. Thanks to **Keshonna, Keosha,** and **Christopher**, for your morale support. Thanks to **Candy, Shawn, Lucky,** and **Ron** for supporting and being there for me, when I needed you. Thanks to **Terrell Buckner** for being my friend through it all. Thanks to my brother **Antonio King**, for standing by my side when no one else would. Thanks to **Milan (Joseph Trice)** and **Pebbles**, the current reigning **Miss Liberty Plus**, for all you've done for me. Thanks to **Jasmine Bonet** and **Nicole Luv Dupree** for being as nice and sweet as you were to me. And thanks to **Darryll, Derrick** and **Dwight** for giving me this opportunity.

On The Cover

UPCLOSE & PERSONAL

Stasha Sanchez

One of America's most decorated Female impersonators; she did not win the 2001 *Miss National Sweetheart* pageant held in Savannah Georgia on Feb 16-17. So

who gives a #@%!

Well there were some audience members who were ready to fight and others willing to burn the Savannah theater that night, but the true queen, reigning like the goddess that she is sat back and watched as her assistants silently packed her bags and with her head held high, dignity and pride in tact she made a quick exit from the building. The level of maturity displayed by Miss Stasha Sanchez on the night she was robbed of a title she so valiantly fought for, is unparalleled in the Diaspora of female impersonation pageantry today. This is not the Stasha of a few years ago who would have let the judges know exactly what they could have done with that 1st runner up plaque. Instead, she smiled radiantly, showing off her new nose and flawless grin.

Regardless of who was being crowned Miss National Sweetheart that night, all eyes were on Stasha.

When you can lose a pageant, but steal the show to the point where you are the contestant talked about long after the pageant is over, then on all accounts you were the winner. When asked how she felt about the results of the National Sweetheart pageant Stasha said, "No matter what happens at a pageant, I am generally happy that I competed and after it is all over, win or lose I will still be

the great Stasha Sanchez who always gives my best and aims to please."

Speaking of giving her best, Stasha credits that part of her personality to her Dad with whom she has a really great relationship. Her dad loved her as his young son and now he fully accepts her as his other daughter. Her dad told her that whatever choice she made concerning her life and career she should remember one thing and that is to be the very best at whatever you chose to do. It is this philosophy that Stasha takes with her everyday and the same one that makes her such an entertaining and enjoyable entertainer and such a hard to beat pageant contestant. Miss Sanchez says that if she is not going to give it her all she just does not bother to do it at all.

The issue of family and relationships is where Stasha worries most. Pleasing her natural birth parents matters to her a great deal and acceptance from both of them was something that made the transition from being a boy to living as a woman much easier. My mom and dad taught me respect at a very early age and they proved themselves when I started becoming a woman by treating me with the same respect

they had when I was a child. Stasha has one sister who people say that she favors. The respect her family shows her is characterized by their support for her career as an entertainer. Her mom and sister both were there to see her give up her title as *Miss Black America*. They also came to see the Monday night show at Traxx and they were there when she gave up her first National title,

Miss Black Universe 1997.

According to Stasha the Black Universe title has been the highlight of her career. It was the turning point and a real blessing in pushing her near the pinnacle of Female impersonation where she now rests. The art is all about growth and getting better and one day Stasha hopes to be sitting at the very top of the hierarchy among the stars. "Black Universe gave me the opportunity to travel across the country showcasing my talents. There were lots of prelims and I met a lot of people". I kept getting called for more and more bookings and my career really took off.

Stasha moved to Atlanta three and a half years ago shortly after she captured the Miss Black Universe title. She was a long time resident of Jacksonville Florida where she was

born and also the city in which she won her first pageant. That title was Miss Jacksonville Newcomer. At the time she was a butch queen in drag, as she did not live her life as a woman then.

Highly decorated, adored by many, hated by a few, worshiped by some and liked by most. But there is more to life than fame, beauty and

titles for Stasha. We had a very nice chat about the things that really matter to Stasha and the warmth she radiated was incredible. Lets clarify the way Miss Sanchez prefers to be addressed. Stasha is perfect, Miss Sanchez is okay but Miss Stasha is a no-no. What the heck you might say? Well I was at a loss myself but then



Continues On Page 51

By: KWESI D



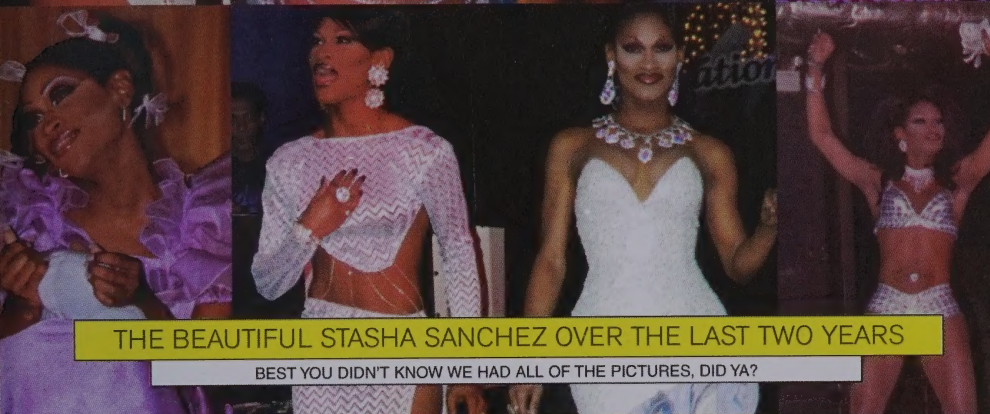
MIYAKE-MUGLER



FACE

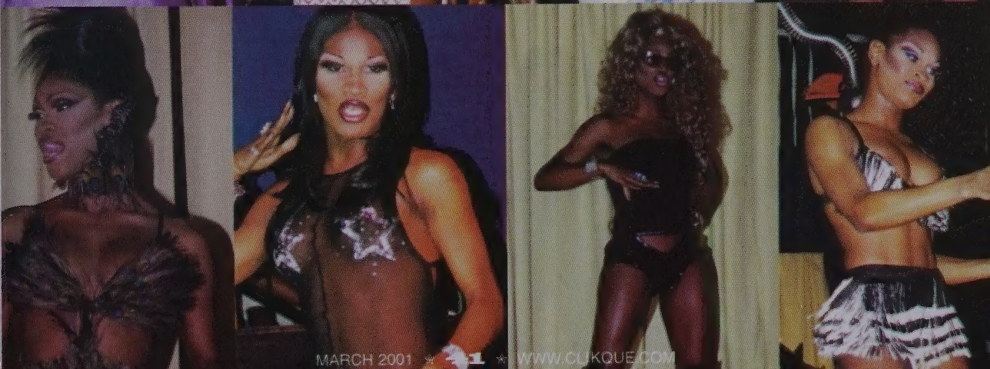
BODY

TITLES



THE BEAUTIFUL STASHA SANCHEZ OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS

BEST YOU DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ALL OF THE PICTURES, DID YA?



The Rails Entertainment Group

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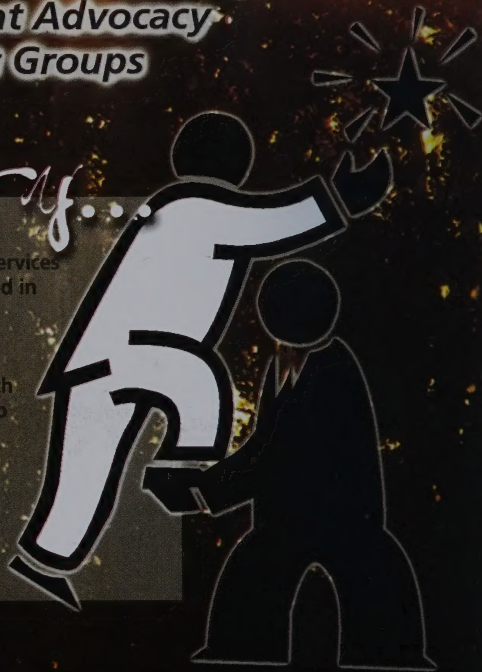
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Our Story...

The African American Men's AIDS Support Services & Survival Institute (AMASSI) was established in 1989 for men whose community had been ravaged by HIV and AIDS. Since that time AMASSI has been to the forefront of efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area funneling much needed treatment and prevention services to a relatively disenfranchised community that had been overlooked for far too long.

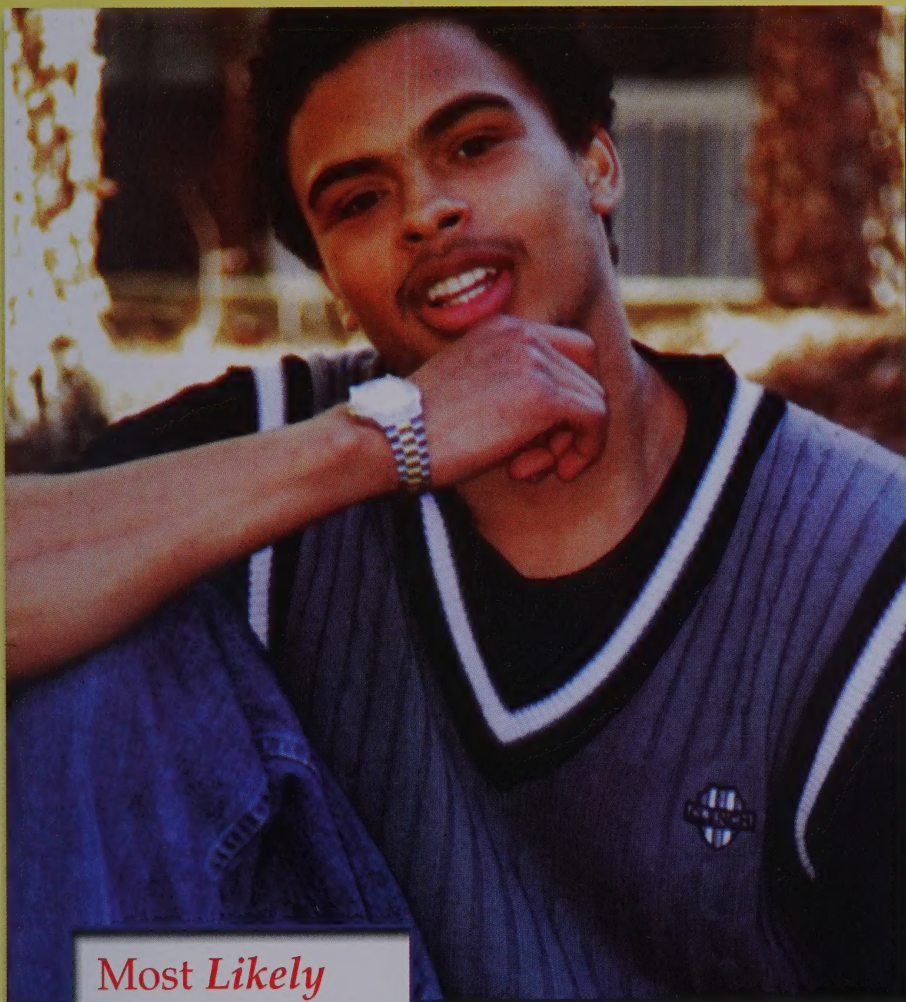
Today Over 75% of the work of AMASSI is in the housing arena, providing services to homeless women, children and families in Alameda County. • www.amassi.org



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BLACK FRIDAY
MANAGEMENT

Topic Of The Month

CAN WE TALK

What I Am Is What I Am, And What You Are Is What You Are

I Love Ice Cream

Even though I don't really eat dairy, my two favorite flavors are Coffee and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

Cookie Dough seems a lot easier to come by than coffee these days, but I Love them both equally, and will inhale a bowl of either set in front of me. When I am devouring a scoop of Coffee, Cookie Dough never really crosses my mind, and vice versa. The one alone is so delectable that I have never found myself desiring to mix the two. Of course, too much ice cream can make one sick. So, even though I love them both,

I don't eat either of them everyday. My Love for ice cream is not amplified by the amount of flavors I enjoy. I just want ice cream when I want ice cream, and as I Love both Cookie Dough and Coffee so much, either of them will do.

This is the analogy I use to explain what it means

to be bisexual, biemotional, or what I term as 'open'. I am capable- or open- to attractions, relationships and 'relations' with both men and women. Each sex is different and intimacy with either is beautiful in it's own, unique way.

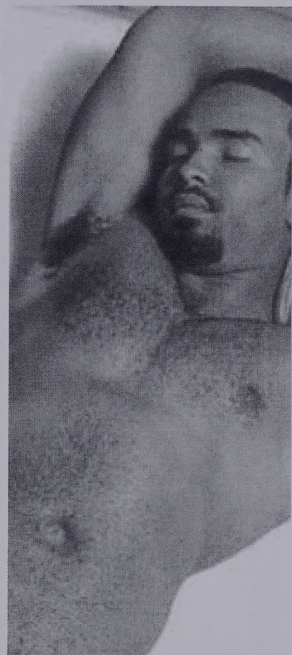
So I was understandably upset when I read the comment of some ersatz intellectual in this purportedly progressive publication referring to "those bisexuals" as "confused sissies who will screw anything that breathes." This idea is as tired as the people

Whatever Your Mood!

who propagate it.

Some of us do start our sexual journeys on one road, reluctantly admitting later in life that we are better outfitted for another. However, many gay and straight people who call those that are open "confused" have never experienced sex with both men and women. Perhaps such individuals are confusing "confusion"

with their own crises of confidence. Whatever the case, I, for one am quite clear on the issue. I have had sex with both men and women, and enjoyed sex with both men and women. This is a testament offered not to invalidate the existence of "confusion" amongst some, but to negate its necessity for all. —CM—



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Orlando

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- Sexuality & Relationships
- Behavioral Self Management
- Body Consciousness & Trigger Shills.
- Safer Sex and Assertion

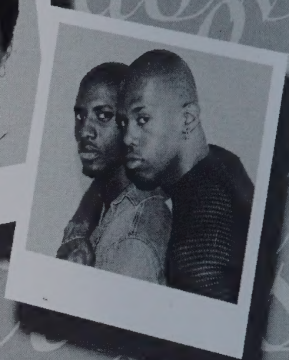
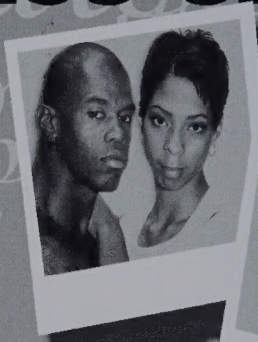
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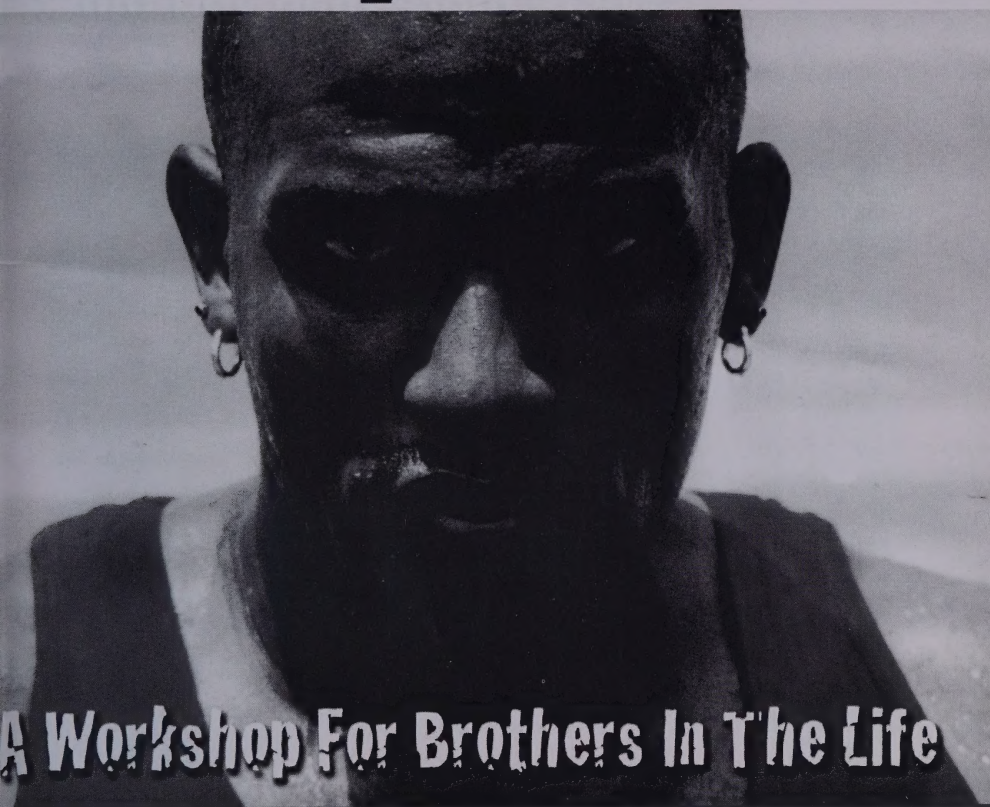
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A Conversation With Ex-Porn Star

DENNIS LINCOLN

Making Me A Man

Charming and charismatic. Words used to describe some of the most beloved individuals throughout history, almost to the point of being cliché. But when I sat down to speak with former porn star, Dennis Lincoln, no two words seemed more befitting. A beautiful brother, serving more than just face and body for the video screen. We vibed on the porn industry while dinning on soup and salad, then moved into the life of a former porn star turned serious musician. Here is how the conversation went:

CLIK: For those readers who aren't fully aware of who you are, will you give us a few of your most popular titles.

DL: Well, there's "Black 4 More", "Cops", "Black Balled", the solo effort "Go Fuck Yourself", "Technical Ecstasy" and the soon to be released "Black Balled 3".

CLIK: I've seen all of them, and believe me when I say I've enjoyed your performances. Most believe that those in pornography come from extremely dysfunctional backgrounds. Did you find this to be the case?

DL: I believe that anyone, you and myself included, who would allow themselves to be exploited in this manner, has to have some type of dysfunction, be it low self esteem, drug or alcohol abuse, physical abuse or whatever. There is a dysfunction there. I got into it because of a relationship I was in. It was an outlet for me.

CLIK: This was obviously a bad relationship; was it not?

DL: Yes. My ex was a manic depressive who is now a large mainstream porno star.

CLIK: Mainstream?

DL: Basically that's white video's. White productions receive a larger budget than black productions, up to \$80,000, giving them mainstream status while the black productions only receive \$3,500 to \$5,000.

CLIK: That's fucked up.

DL: It's a white run and owned industry.

CLIK: Do you choose whom you work with or is there a contract that stipulates who your on screen partners will be?

DL: Basically, you never know who you're going to be with. Certain producers still literally find \$50 hustlers to perform in videos. It keeps the budget down and they know folks will buy them anyway.

CLIK: Who have been some of your favorite costars?

DL: Winston Love, Bam, Mocha, J.C. Carter, and even my ex, Tony Donovan.

CLIK: How about Bobby Blake?

DL: I've done some things with Bobby Blake and to be honest, I don't like Bobby Blake. He is a well manicured brother, but personally, I don't like him. I have wanted to work with Richard Reyes though.

CLIK: That brotha turns me on. Really! Anyway, some folk think this industry is easy cash and lead to bigger and better things. Is this a reality?

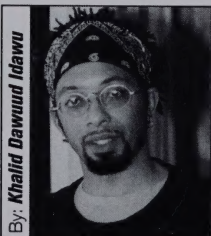
DL: Only if you are white. MTV has hired several VJ's who were former gay porn stars and boosted their careers.

CLIK: You've left the industry to pursue music. How is that going?

DL: Music was there first. It always was. Porn was a dysfunctional sidetrack.

CLIK: So, what are your goals?

DL: I'm an artist. Like you, I'd like my voice to be heard.



By: Khalid Dawoud Idawu

Want More Information On This Topic?

If you would like to get more information about Dennis Lincoln, visit his site at www.dennislincoln.com. Khalid is a senior staff writer for Clique Magazine.



PHOTO: Black Inches Magazine

CLIK: Do you write your own music?

DL: Absolutely! I write, play bass guitar and keyboards.

CLIK: I've heard you sing. Your voice is filled with the romanticism of a Johnny Mathis but the sexuality of Marvin Gaye.

DL: Thank you. But look forward to a lot more diversity. Right now, I'm taking voice lessons to enhance what has been given to me.

CLIK: I think that is great. More artist should learn to enhance their crafts. Who are some people you would like to work with?

DL: There are the obvious, my idols who are no longer with us, Marvin Gaye and Donny Hathaway. I love Howard Hewitt, Alanis Morissette and Li'l Kim to name a few. My music is very personal and eclectic.

CLIK: You have lead an interesting life. How do you keep a positive outlook on your future?

DL: I'm very healthy. I work out 5 days a week. I don't do any type of drugs, nor do I drink or smoke. Music and working out have been my saving graces.

CLIK: You have a website. On your website I've noticed that you hire yourself out as an escort.

DL: Yes. But it's not the hourly type situations. I'm no longer in the industry, but Dennis Lincoln still exists. My fans hire the video fantasy. I perform for them.

CLIK: Will Dennis Lincoln be the recording star?

DL: No. But of course there will be that porn stigma should my career blossom beyond even my wildest dreams. That's why I will hide nothing.

CLIK: How can people find out more about you?

DL: Well that can go to my website www.DennisLincoln.com or they can click onto www.KirkSpencer.com.

CLIK: Who's Kirk Spencer?

DL: Ha ha. That's coming soon.

We finished our conversation there. But believe me brothers and sisters; this is definitely not the last you'll hear from this beautiful man. His spirit and positive outlook will bring joy to whole new set of fans. Fans who will see him as more than what the world of porn has shown. I'm proud to call him a friend and wish him much success in all his future endeavors. (Much Jah love to you brotha)

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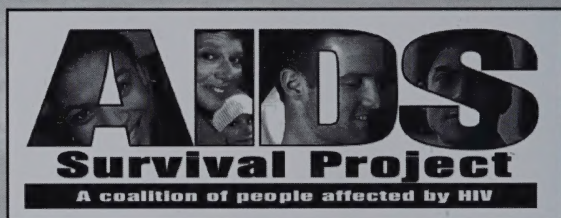
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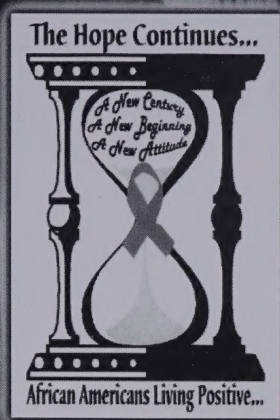


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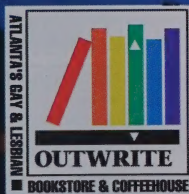


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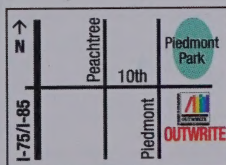
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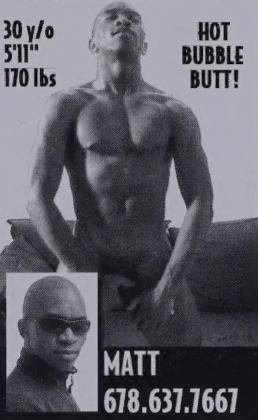
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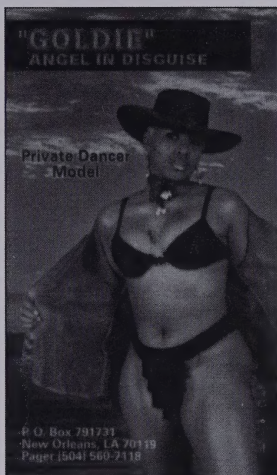
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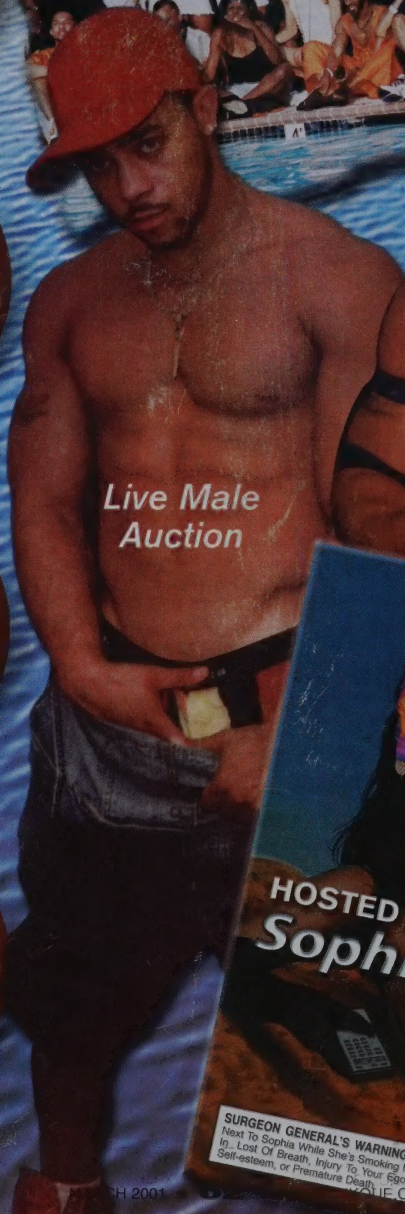
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